

Near meltdown at HIV prevention confab
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'Camp' it up
Show-queen teens in
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Petrelis and Pasquarelli settle harass case

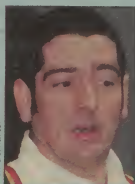
by Cynthia Laird

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis and ACT UP/SF AIDS dissident David Pasquarelli each pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges before visiting Judge Raymond Arata in San Francisco Superior Court July 30 and have accepted three years' probation and extensive stay-away orders in connection with a series of harassing and threatening phone calls the pair allegedly made to city public health officials, HIV researchers, and members of the media nearly two years ago.



David Pasquarelli

In addition to the probation and stay-away orders, both men were ordered to participate in mental health counseling, which they have been doing, their attorneys said, and have issued apologies to their victims. Mark Vermeulen, Pasquarelli's attorney, declined to comment on the apology.



Michael Petrelis

"They have apologized to people. That is a private matter," Vermeulen told the Bay Area Reporter on Monday, August 4. He said he could not comment on whether the apologies were made in writing or issued verbally.

Assistant District Attorney Michon Martin hailed the plea-bargain, saying that the case against the men would not have resulted in state prison time had it gone to trial and had Petrelis and Pasquarelli been found guilty.

"The beauty of this is they stood in court and admitted wrongdoing," Martin said in a phone interview Friday, August 1. "Our goal was to get them away from the victims."

Both men also spent 72 days in county jail following their arrest in November 2001 before being released on bail.

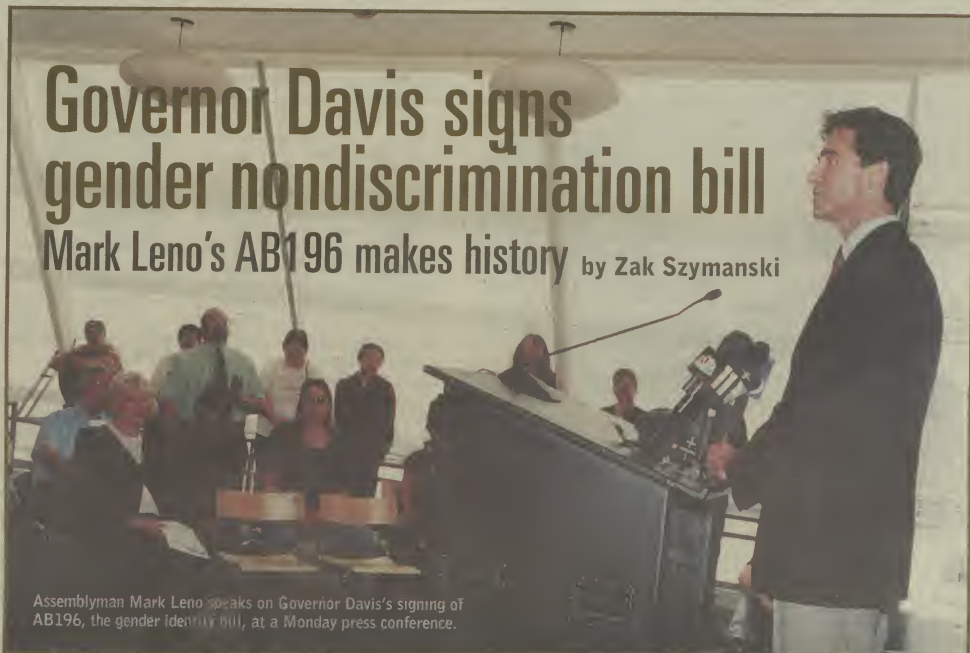
The plea-bargain includes a standard condition that if they violate the probation terms within one year, they could go to jail.

The district attorney's office had been meeting with Petrelis and Pasquarelli for several months in an

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Governor Davis signs gender nondiscrimination bill

Mark Leno's AB196 makes history by Zak Szymanski



Assemblyman Mark Leno speaks on Governor Davis's signing of AB196, the gender identity bill, at a Monday press conference.

Proud smiles and cheers of excitement filled the San Francisco LGBT Community Center on Monday, August 4, as Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and a host of elected officials and community leaders gathered to celebrate the formal passage of Leno's AB196, the first major piece of LGBT legislation to be signed into law this session.

The historic law codifies the definition of gender within the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include nondiscrimination protections on the basis of real or perceived

gender identity.

FEHA — like the state education code, as well as the hate crimes law — will now be amended to protect a person who is "treated unfairly because the individual looks or acts differently from that which is traditionally associated with one's gender at birth," according to Leno. California is now the fourth state to outlaw discrimination against transgenders, although protections will extend to anyone deemed gender variant or nonconforming. New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Minnesota have all passed similar statewide laws.

Surprising many, Governor Gray Davis signed the bill on Saturday, August 2, despite facing a tough recall election that has pitted him against religious conservatives who are likely to use the law to add fuel to their fire. The bill passed the state Senate with a vote of 23-11 on July 24 and passed the Assembly with a vote of 42-34 on April 21.

At Monday's press conference, speakers praised the governor and AB196's supporters for providing leadership on the issue within an increasingly conservative political climate.

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Davis urged to reaffirm support for same-sex couples in wake of Vatican decree

by Matthew S. Bajko

Gay rights activists are calling on Governor Gray Davis, California's highest-ranking Catholic officeholder, to reaffirm his support for same-sex couples after the Vatican last month called upon Catholic politicians to oppose not only gay marriage but civil unions and domestic partnerships.

In a 12-page document issued July 30 by the Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the church stated that the "Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition [to gay marriage] clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral."

The document went on to state that, "There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family."

Along with opposing gay marriage, the document instructs Catholic politicians to oppose any laws or measures that would



Gay couples like Ben Allen, left, and Jeffrey Tilmon, of San Francisco, want to be able to wed.

equate same-sex couples with married couples.

"Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior, with the consequence of making it a model in present-day society, but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity," states the document.

The Catholic Church's position paper

came one day after President Bush announced he also opposes gay marriage and signaled that his administration is looking at legal strategies to ensure marriage in America remains a union solely between a man and

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Final lawsuit against EBO law defeated

by Zak Szymanski

Several days of discouraging news for LGBT couples – including the pope's remarks against same-sex marriage, and President Bush's statement he planned to pursue legal avenues to codify marriage as between a man and a woman – were countered with a significant ruling in San Francisco, which could have a ripple effect nationwide.

On Tuesday, July 29, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the final legal appeal challenging San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, the historic 1996 amendment to the city's administrative code that requires companies doing business with the city to provide domestic partners with the same benefits as married couples.

A 3-0 ruling found that San Francisco's ordinance did not conflict with California's Family Code, as alleged by plaintiff S.D. Myers. The company, an Ohio-based electrical firm that refused to abide by city law on fundamentalist religious grounds, said the law prevented it from obtaining contracts in San Francisco. This lawsuit was backed by evangelist Pat Robertson and was argued by California Advocates for Faith and Freedom. "This is the last nail in the coffin of the religious right's challenge to San Francisco's groundbreaking equal benefits ordi-

nance," said Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart after last week's victory. Stewart argued the city's case before the federal appeals court in San Francisco last December. "San Francisco's measure has had a huge ripple effect nationally by encouraging large corporations and health insurance companies to provide benefits for domestic partners."

San Francisco's law prompted numerous cities, states, and corporations to enact similar legislation or policies, and it is often credited with the number of domestic partner policies that exist in the country today. At the time of the law's enactment in 1997, roughly 200 companies provided domestic partner benefits nationwide. Today, the number stands at nearly 6,000 companies, of which 4,000 – roughly two-thirds – do business with the City and County of San Francisco.

But from the start, San Francisco's domestic partnership law was challenged, most notably by the airline industry. The Air Transport Association, which represents 95 percent of the country's passenger air carriers, sued on the grounds that the law violated the federal Airline Deregulation Act. That lawsuit sparked a gay boycott of United Airlines, a named plaintiff, and although a 1999 court ruling prompted the company to start offering benefits, ATA continued with its suit until the 9th Circuit

handed down a defeat in 2001.

Soon after the airlines filed their lawsuit, S.D. Myers sued on the grounds that the domestic partner law conflicted with California state law, but last week's ruling puts an end to such legal challenges.

"It has been a long legal battle against a highly motivated, well-funded legal foe, and enormous congratulations are due to Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart and former Deputy City Attorney Dennis Aftergut for their extraordinary skill, dedication and hard work," said a statement from City Attorney Dennis Herrera. "It's important to recognize, too, the debt we owe to activists like Jeff Sheehy, Geoff Kors and our own city attorney investigator, Carol Stuart, whose leadership and vision in authoring the measure back in 1996 would make so enormous a difference for the cause of equality in municipal laws and corporate benefit packages nationwide."

Kors, an original co-author of the measure and now executive director of Equality California, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that San Francisco's victory would be helpful in securing the passage of AB17, the pending equal benefits law at the state level.

"The decision clarifies that every legal argument that's been thrown at the law has been rejected by the courts," said Kors. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Episcopalians confirm first openly gay bishop

by Matthew S. Bajko

The Episcopal Church confirmed openly gay Reverend Canon V. Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire on Tuesday, August 5 at its 74th General Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Episcopal House of Bishops confirmed Robinson, elected by the New Hampshire Diocese in June, as the denomination's first openly gay bishop. The vote was 62-43 with two abstentions. Robinson, 56, is a divorced father of two and has been living with his partner, Mark Andrew, for 13 years.

Robinson was cleared of an 11th hour accusation of impropriety in an e-mail sent to bishops Sunday night. The discredited accusations delayed the bishops' vote for a day.

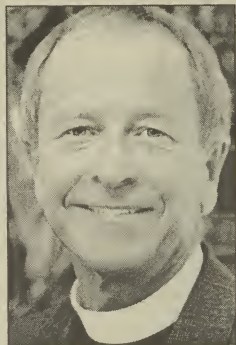
The confirmation process, reported widely as having the potential to prompt a schism in the Anglican community, underscored Robinson's support in the national Episcopal community and an outspoken desire for unity in the church.

"I have seen happen what I never would have dreamed. The church has embraced the love that dare not speak its name and taken it to its heart," San Francisco resident Otis Charles, 77, the first openly gay bishop of a Christian denomination, said by phone from Minneapolis.

Elected bishop of Utah in 1971, Charles then became president of Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1986. In 1993 he came out as an openly gay man, instantly testing the official policy of the Episcopal Church that permits the ordination of openly gay men and women.

Charles, who still retains his voting seat in the 300-plus member House of Bishops, said Robinson's election is as significant as the 1988 election of a woman to serve as an Episcopal bishop.

"This is a wonderful new day," said Charles, who is now retired and lives in the Castro. "It's been a



Bishop-elect V. Gene Robinson

long path since Stonewall, but we dream dreams and we have seen those dreams come true.

"We have always said there are no outcasts in Episcopal Church. This makes that vision a reality, that we now have a gay man living in a committed relationship with his partner brought into the highest office of the church. It is an end of secrecy and puts shame to light."

"This is a triumph for gay and lesbian rights," said the Reverend Robert Warren Cromey, 72, the retired rector of San Francisco's Trinity Episcopal Church, and a supporter of gay rights since the 1960s. "It's been a long slow struggle and a lot of it still has to be done."

Cromey, who is straight, is the author of *In God's Image: Christian Witness to the Need for Gay and Lesbian Equality in the Eyes of the Church*. He said the election of

Robinson will have a ripple effect on other religions that have been moving toward adopting more accepting policies for gays and lesbians.

"I think it will have an impact on the Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists. They have all been dealing with gay rights in the same way as the Episcopal Church and have always been afraid to make very positive statements. But every year they grow more supportive of gay and lesbian rights."

The Episcopal bishops' vote in support of Robinson is in sharp contrast to leaders of the Catholic Church, who last week issued a document opposing gay rights and calling on Catholic politicians to block passage of laws that would grant rights to same-sex couples.

"I am excited and thrilled at the action of the House of Bishops today," said the Reverend Susan Russell, executive director of Claiming the Blessing, a partnership of leading Episcopal LGBT organizations. "As difficult as these last couple of days have been, I am gratified to be part of a church that is willing to work together through hard times. This is a prophetic step forward taken by the Episcopal Church on behalf of GLBT people and the Gospel."

Russell added, "I believed all along that Gene was an extraordinarily good choice to be the next bishop of New Hampshire and feel that the General Convention has now said 'Amen' to what the Holy Spirit said to the people of

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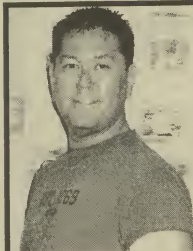
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Wanted: Voters at October election

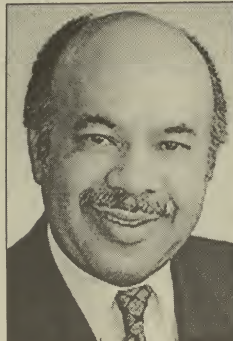
Racial Privacy Initiative to be on ballot

by Zak Szymanski

Voters on all sides of the recall effort against Governor Gray Davis have an added incentive to go to the polls on October 7: Proposition 54, the so-called Racial Privacy Initiative, which goes far beyond prohibiting racial preferences and instead bans public agencies from collecting any type of racial data.

Proposition 54's sponsor is Ward Connerly, himself a person of color, and past champion of California Proposition 209, which ended affirmative action in the state. Connerly has said that Proposition 54's goal is to end racism. But with his close ties to former Governor Pete Wilson, and his Republican Party membership, most progressives and liberals are concerned, and Connerly, a University of California regent, has found himself at odds with a long list of labor, health, and civil rights groups and representatives.

In San Francisco, these representatives come from LGBT organizations and a variety of city agencies - including the Department of Public Health - who caution that Proposition 54 puts numerous programs, advocacy, and outreach efforts in jeopardy.



Prop. 54 author Ward Connerly

"Yes, there are times when racial information could be misused, but this measure is a concern," said Vincent Baduel, a Filipino American and chair of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. GAPA has not taken a position on the measure, but Baduel feels that "there are times when you need that information, in order to gain what is rightfully yours."

That includes access to race or culture specific services, said Robert Haaland, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, which along with the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, has officially opposed the measure.

"Proposition 54 dramatically affects the ability to track problems, whether it be health problems, or one group of folks not accessing services, which could be fixable through targeted outreach," said Haaland. "How would you know that HIV rates are rising in the African American community, for instance, if you can't track the data?"

Concerns like these are motivating San Francisco's DPH to urge the Health Commission at its meeting on August 19 to join an expected Board of Supervisors position in opposition to Proposition 54.

"We have five major areas we've identified where Proposition 54 will impact us," said Colleen Johnson, assistant director of policy and planning at DPH.

These five areas, she said, include the ability to evaluate the health needs of diverse communities, because "not being able to gather information doesn't allow us to create or improve programs where the needs are."

Another area of concern is the ability to access funding through competitive grants; "If we're applying for funding and need to specify a target population, sometimes there's a race factor. So California will be less competitive when it comes to securing grants."

The third area of concern is how to conduct effective programming and how to plan for future programs.

And within DPH, a lack of racial data would prohibit the agency from ensuring that its contractors are fulfilling cultural competency requirements, and would also not allow DPH to track its own hiring practices.

"The information is relevant for hiring for certain services," said Johnson, "especially when it comes to peer to peer outreach kinds of positions."

The serious impact of Proposition 54 must not be ignored, according to its opponents, and it makes going to the polls all the more important in October, regardless of a voter's opinion on Davis's recall.

"It's fair to say many liberals and progressives are somewhat ambivalent about the recall race," said Haaland. "But we really have to push ourselves to go to the polls." ▼

The No on Proposition 54 campaign will host a kickoff event today (Thursday, August 7) at noon on the steps of San Francisco City Hall.

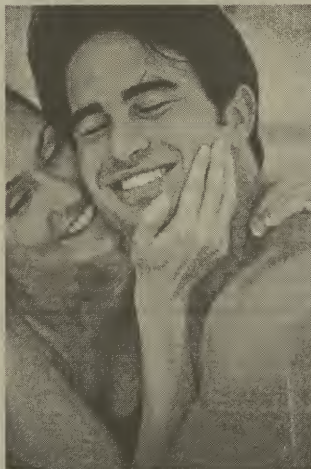
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Milk Club endorses Ammiano, Hallinan

Ranked choice candidates face uncertain future

by Zak Szymanski

On Tuesday, August 5, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club voted to endorse Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor and incumbent Terence Hallinan for district attorney.

Working on the premise that there would be an instant runoff voting system implemented in time for the November elections, the Milk Club also ranked second and third choice candidates, giving City Treasurer Susan Leal the nod for second choice in the mayoral race, and deciding upon "no endorsement" for a third choice



Mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano

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COMMUNITY NEWS

State high court OKs second-parent adoptions

by Cynthia Laird

The California Supreme Court on Monday, August 4 upheld thousands of adoptions by gay and lesbian couples, ruling that second-parent adoptions are valid.

By a resounding 6-1 decision, the justices reversed a decision by the California Court of Appeal issued in October 2001 that created shock waves throughout the country by holding that the California adoption statutes do not permit second-parent adoptions.

Justice Janice Rogers Brown, who President Bush recently nominated to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, was the only dissenting judge. She said that second-parent adoptions should be reserved for couples who are in a legal relationship.

Gay rights leaders hailed the court's decision, saying it was a strong affirmation of the principles that gays and lesbians are fit to be parents.

"By affirming second-parent adoption, the California Supreme Court remedied a terrible lower court decision that had jeopardized the security of thousands of children with same-sex parents,"

said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "This decision ensures that California law strengthens, rather than destroys, family bonds."

"This ruling allows thousands of parents to breathe a collective sigh of relief," said Aimee Gelnow, executive director of the national Family Pride Coalition. "We commend the justices in this case, who ruled for fairness and equality and set an example for other states to follow. Their decision will benefit countless thousands of California children who will have the security and protections their parents intended."

Writing for the majority, Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar held that "second-parent adoptions offer the possibility of obtaining the security and advantages of two parents for some of California's neediest children."

Werdegar also stressed the importance of providing legal protections and stability for children born to same-sex and other unmarried couples: "Unmarried couples who have brought a child into the world with the expectation that they will raise it together, and who have jointly petitioned for adoption, should be on notice that if they separate the same rules

concerning custody and visitation as apply to all other parents will apply to them."

Monday's decision involved a San Diego couple, Annette Friskopp and Sharon Silverstein, who broke up after being together 11 years. Silverstein said that over the course of her relationship with Friskopp, she gave birth to two boys and stayed home to raise them. The eldest boy was born in 1996 and Friskopp petitioned to adopt him. Silverstein then gave birth to her second son in June 1999 and it was the second-parent adoption involving the younger son that was contested when Silverstein sought to withdraw her consent.

In October 2001, the San Diego appellate court ruled 2-1 in *Sharon S. v. Superior Court* that California law does not authorize second-parent adoptions. It was that decision that Monday's Supreme Court ruling overturned.

In California, thousands of second-parent adoptions have been granted since 1984, when the concept was first originated by attorneys from NCLR. California is now the ninth jurisdiction in which an appellate court has approved second-parent adoptions. Other states include the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. ▼

'Brouhaha': Trans/gender-queer party on Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

Community groups and cutting edge performers will come together this Saturday, August 9, to raise money for local organizations that seek to end violence against LGBT people and fund transgender surgeries.

"Brouhaha: A party for trans, intersex, genderqueer folks, and their buddies" takes place at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street at Precita, from 4-8 p.m. Sponsored by United Genders of the Universe, the event features entertainers such as rock star Shawna Virago; the people of color butch/FTM troupe Other Brothers; intersex activist and spoken word artist Thea Hillman; the tranny-led, genre-defying band Robosapien; FTM rapper

Katastrophe; transman hip-hop artist Jaycub Perez; FTM slam poet Victor Tobar; and DJ Sam.

Admission to Saturday's event is \$5-\$10, but no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. All money raised goes to Community United Against Violence, which advocates for victims of domestic violence and hate crimes; and Pronoun Schmonoun, which works in conjunction with other groups to pool resources for the surgery funds of transgenders.

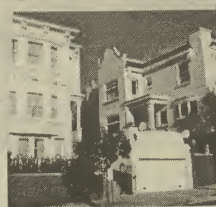
Inspired by a variety of recent genderbent events, Brouhaha ensures a welcoming space for those who identify more along the "queer" spectrum rather than a particular gender-defined sexuality, including the partners and friends of transgenders and genderqueers. ▼



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Robinson's resounding victory

When the news arrived Monday that the final vote on Bishop-elect Gene Robinson at the Episcopal Church USA's general conference had been abruptly postponed because of allegations of inappropriate touching and an alleged porn link on a Web site for queer youth, immediately, we suspected a smear campaign. While the man, David Lewis of Vermont, who lodged the "touching" complaint has since said he regrets using the word "harassment" in his e-mail to Episcopal bishops meeting in Minneapolis, we wonder why he had waited until the 11th hour.

Robinson, of course, was confirmed as the bishop of the New Hampshire Diocese Tuesday evening. The investigation launched by the bishops was quick, the allegations were dismissed, and Robinson was cleared of the accusations. But the mainstream media and those opposed to Robinson's confirmation had a field day for several hours, leading to speculation as to whether Robinson would withdraw his name from consideration. To his credit, Robinson stood firm and withstood the onslaught of blatant homophobia. Lewis's claim of "inappropriate touching" turned out to be nothing more than Robinson touching him on the arm and upper back during a public church function; there was nothing sexual about it, as Lewis himself admitted. Yet some media outlets characterized it as sexual in nature. The Web site claim was even more ludicrous and turned out to be moot because Robinson's involvement with the Concord Outright youth support group ended four years ago – before creation of the Web site in 2002.

Robinson's supporters staunchly defended him, calling the last-minute accusations "character assassination" and "a desperate delaying tactic."

Unfortunately, to most of us in the community, the accusations were not surprising. Disturbing, yes; but surprising, no.

Throughout the convention, and especially after Monday's circus, Robinson remained calm, and steadfast that his election as bishop was a sign that "all God's children" be welcomed by the Episcopal Church. We hope so. Opponents' claims that the church will be harmed seem groundless to us. These are re-

ligious leaders after all, who are supposed to preach about God's love, not their hateful homophobic rants. The Reverend Donald Armstrong told the *New York Times* that, "What's happened here is that the church is trying to bless and normalize something that is a disorder." Sorry, reverend, homosexuality is not a disorder, but your homophobia is.

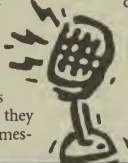
Comments like Armstrong's are on par with the Vatican's shrill call last week to Catholic lawmakers to reject same-sex unions, whether they be gay marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships. The Vatican played upon some heterosexuals' fears about gays and children by equating gay adoption to violence. And most of the media played right along, by failing to interview gay Catholics or gay family advocates about how preposterous that claim is.

In this country, we have the principle of the separation of church and state, and it's a good thing that we do. This week the Cali-

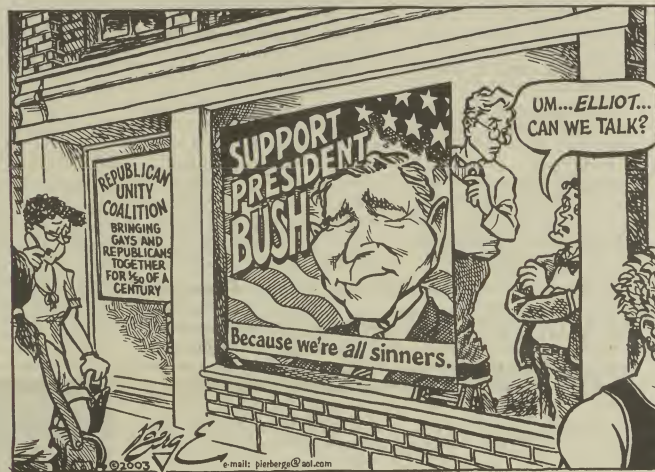
fornia Supreme Court struck down a lower court ruling against second-parent adoptions, which are often used by same-sex couples. The ruling means thousands of second-parent adoptions will stand. Similarly, Governor Gray Davis, who is Catholic, on Saturday signed Assemblyman Mark Leno's AB196, which codifies the definition of gender within the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include nondiscrimination protections on the basis of real or perceived gender identity.

So far, this summer has been a topsy-turvy one for gays. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws. Pat Robertson prayed three justices would retire. President Bush said he's

against gay marriage. The Vatican called on lawmakers to vote against bills that would give equal rights to gays. The Episcopal Church voted to confirm an openly gay man as bishop. Stay tuned. We still await gay marriage cases in Massachusetts and New Jersey. ▼



Editorial



Birth of the Queer Eye

by Eric Ganther

In the work-identity shoppe that is *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, which one are you: the hairdresser, the interior designer, the couturier, the epicure, or the etiquetteer? Sorry, mechanic isn't an option.

Of course you can do anything you can get paid to do. The gay gene won't stop you from being a mechanic (grease in the right light is stunning). Yet in my experience working with gay men on career issues, there is a good chance that many of you are employed by the beauty, fashion, redecorating, improving, making pretty, entertaining industry or the teaching, preaching, counseling, social-problem-fixing institution. What does this mean?

Yes, the gay designer is a stereotype. But don't be afraid, stereotypes are just the shadow that our difference casts. It's the creation stories we have to watch out for. In the popular mind, gay men come from crossed wiring, which to the same mind explains both why gay men take it up the butt and work in nelly occupations – like designing. Not very sophisticated, but this is what happens when you let them unconsciously decide what your story is.

Let's see if we can come up with something a little more imaginative, active, bold. Something a little more... gay. How about this:

At some point in your gay childhood you discover that boys turn you on sexually and girls don't. This simple difference in the object of your desire will have a huge impact on your experience of childhood: how you behave and what you're good at. Since your love objects are other boys and you live in a society where anal virginity is at the core of gender identity, you will have to be very careful

about how you pursue him. You will have to set the scene very carefully and look very closely for signs that it's okay to reveal your desire. You will need to keep the upper hand, so love object doesn't find out until you're ready for him to know. It's a lot of work pursuing boys when you're a boy. There's always the risk of being caught and humiliated. When you're in high school, this might seem like a curse, but while you're carefully observing and setting the scene to get love object, you are also growing a unique set of skills – the queer eye. You can observe (people and things) and set the scene much better than straight boys.

You also communicate better. You become expert at concealing and using innuendo. You can speak on many different levels. Again, because you have to. Every gay boy grows up a distinct minority – often feeling like the only one, and (repeat after me) there's always the risk of being caught and humiliated. Your tongue keeps you safe long enough for your pen to take out the whole team. As you mature you use these skills in school, at the company, on the team, with the unit, etc. You do it differently than straight boys and, on average, better. Remember the gay guy who won *Survivor*?

When you come out, you begin the challenging process of integrating your advanced social skills, gay experiences, and often eccentric interests into the world of work. This can be difficult because the wide world of work is set up for the benefit of traditional families. You will probably migrate to a bigger city or to the gay part of town, where the other gay men are – with their very similar set of skills and interests. The

competition will be fierce, but it will make you better. And at least you're not alone anymore. Don't worry, if you run out of people in the community, there are plenty of straight people who need your experience.

If you're gay and work well with people, you will likely enjoy employment that relies on your keen observation and manipulation skills: counseling, preaching, teaching, coaching, prostitution, social work, advertising, journalism, etc. If you're gay and work well with objects, you will likely enjoy employment that relies on your ability to manipulate and set the scene: hairdressing, interior design, art, fashion, architecture, gardening, set design, art direction, porn production, etc.

From observation comes beauty. From communication comes harmony. These are the values underlying gay identity. And using them we have a tremendous impact on the broader society. Although it's fun to see some of our contributions celebrated by TV programs like *Queer Eye*, this is just the hem of the dress. We do this and much more. From the gay kindergarten teacher, who spellbinds with fairy tales, to the gay cop, who successfully calms down both parties, to the gay minister, who helps them access peace and transcendence, gay men have devoted ourselves to making everyone's world a little more beautiful and a little more harmonious. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach currently working on a book about queer work identity. He is an author, poet, and public speaker. He can be reached at eric@ericganther.com.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

In defense of Hank Wilson

No good deed in the gay world goes unpunished. Richard Gipson once again confirmed that old saw in his attack on Hank Wilson, for Wilson's work to expose and control the dangers of poppers ("Against poppers crusader," Letters, July 31).

The excitable Gipson makes the following charges against Hank Wilson, all false: That Wilson wants to bring the feds into our bedrooms. That he views people who use poppers as bad. That he's like Jerry Falwell. That he has a fascist perspective. That he's planning some political move for himself. That he's homophobic. That he's narcissistic.

What rubbish! Hank Wilson has never called for any penalties whatever against the people who use poppers, or impugned their character. To the contrary, he has focused on controlling the pushers and on enforcing basic truth-in-advertising laws and consumer protection laws.

Also, Wilson has selflessly devoted himself for nearly three decades to gay rights issues. He has leafleted, protested, and demonstrated time and again, and repeatedly been arrested in actions of peaceful civil disobedience.

This record has all sprung from Wilson's vibrant sense of gay pride and his love of the gay community. He has never profited personally from his gay activism. To the contrary, he has made great personal sacrifices on behalf of us all.

As to poppers themselves, Richard Gipson forgot to mention some things. Years of medical research have established the following facts: Even just the occasional use of poppers suppresses the immune system and deforms blood cells. Ongoing use of poppers has been associated with various kinds of cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma in particular (the nasty purple lesions that people with AIDS can get), cardiac arrest, and significantly higher transmission rates for HIV.

In the 19th century, many business owners claimed they had the right to sell any products whatever, without any regard for their impact on the public, or any regard for truth in advertising. That system was known as laissez-faire capitalism. It had a devastating impact on the public's well-being.

Today we know better. Business owners now have to be up front about the ingredients of their products. They may not use false advertising. Products that are consumed must be properly tested for their effects. Products that are threats to the public health are regulated or outlawed. All of us have gained from these consumer-protection measures.

Richard Gipson would do well to come into the 21st century. He would also do well to stop defaming a hero of the gay community.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Plaudit for Hank

Mr. Gipson's screed against Hank Wilson's ongoing campaign to educate about Poppers was very entertaining and I'm delighted to be able to respond with some information.

Poppers, or room deodorizer or video head cleaners or whatever they are sold in your neighborhood, are those little - usually brown - bottles filled with chemicals used as inhalants during sex.

Poppers have been around for a long time and surprisingly unregulated although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration should step in. Since they are sold as leather cleaner or room deodorizer or other household products, exact contents of these products are not known, and they are not safety tested - hello! You are ingesting chemical vapors and you have no clue what they are, no wonder they work - you can actually feel the brain cells dying.

Exactly like cigarettes, poppers should at least have regulations of their sale and warning labels about the use of the product. That is what Hank Wilson has been pushing for - education about a true health hazard in our community.

As for Hank Wilson, he has been on the front lines for decades and hardly for any personal gain. I have never, in the decade I've known him, seen him do anything but share the information he has and ask people to make their own decisions. I will be happy to stand by this "social-working fascist" any time. I nominated him (and he won) for Pride grand marshal and I also worked with him and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc. to produce a club drug card about poppers which can be found at www.dancesafe.org under drug information.

Benji Holmann
San Francisco

Two kinds of marriage

There are two kinds of marriage in this country, civil and religious. Why not allow gays civil marriage as a right and religious if they can find a church to perform the ceremony?

To remove the inequality of granting benefits to straight couples but not to same-sex couples, you

must either grant all benefits to all couples, or remove benefits from all couples.

The only conceivable reason for the government to be interested in the concept of marriage at all is the rearing of children. The government could recognize only those couples, gay or straight that have children in the home.

I believe it was Mark Twain who said, "The institution of marriage is so unstable that the combined forces of church and state are barely sufficient to sustain it."

James Keefer
San Francisco

Costly recall election

I see that the bogus recall will actually cost taxpayers \$67 million, more than double the original estimate. Has anything changed to cause this escalation? Why wasn't the real cost of this recall announced while the petitions were being circulated? Perhaps the big money interests that own the media want this recall.

Has a single politician called for rewriting the antiquated recall law of 1911? The ridiculously low threshold of 12 percent was set before television existed, before modern telecommunications or the Internet, and - especially - before unprincipled, for-profit signature gathering companies paid workers to stand outside supermarkets all day.

Incredibly, on the day the recall qualified, a budget compromise was announced! It's state Senator Jim Brulte (R-Rancho Cucamonga), not Governor Gray Davis, who deserves blame for the budget impasse. Brulte's intransigence on even a temporary 1/2 percent rise in sales tax has resulted in draconian cuts in proven programs, such as the closure of U.C. Extension Center in SF, which (of course) served working people well with evening and weekend courses. Something is rotten in the state of California.

Ken Rackow
San Francisco

Class acts in Guerneville

The San Francisco Zeta Chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, the national social fraternity for gay, bisexual, and progressive men, just returned from Guerneville. We were there to support the 22 teams competing in the fourth annual Russian River Rainbow Classic Softball Tournament.

For many of the brothers, the July 25-27 weekend was our first time in the Russian River area. It was an incredible first experience.

The brothers collectively send their thanks to the management of Xen Resort, the bar staff at Rainbow Cattle Co., Club FAB, Fife's, and the coordinators of the Rainbow Classic. The tournament, the clubs, and the residents of Guerneville were all class acts.

The tournament and weekend were an amazing way to network, make new friends, and enjoy a peaceful escape from the city. We look forward to next year's tournament as a chance to repeat it.

We hope all of the new friends we made and players we cheered for in Russian River will return the support by attending the chapter's first "Miss DLP" pageant fundraiser, Sunday, August 10, at Aunt Charlie's. Those interested in joining DLP are encouraged to attend our August 16 recruiting event, from 2-4 p.m., at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

Paul E. Pratt, III

President, San Francisco Zeta Chapter
Delta Lambda Phi National Social Fraternity

Magnet event a success

Will Clark's Bad Boys by the Bay benefit for Magnet on July 26 was a blast! I want to thank producer Will Clark; hosts Michael Brandon and Hekina; Irene Soderberg; the flawless drag performers; Pepperspray; the porn stars galore; and the event sponsors for an incredible afternoon. Guests were treated to this debut San Francisco event with an impressive array of some of our community's finest entertainers who delighted and titillated us with their sizable talents.

Thanks go out as well to the volunteers who worked the party, the photographers and artists who donated artwork for the silent auction, and the Blue Room Gallery on Mission Street for making Magnet's first benefit such a raging success. More than \$9,700 was raised for Magnet.

If you haven't been in our storefront yet at 18th and Castro Streets, stop in and check us out. Magnet's goal is to connect gay men with sexual health services, community activities, and each other to improve our health as individuals and as a community. For more information, please visit magnetsf.org.

Steven Gibson, Director
Magnet
San Francisco

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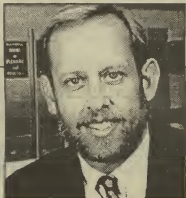


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Triple play

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

This is a time for joy. On July 28, Pennsylvania's governor signed an executive order that protects 80,000 state employees. By a stroke of his pen, he banned discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It is, perhaps, a precursor to an eventual extension of antidiscrimination protections throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

This is the second statewide win for the Keystone State in less than a year, with hate crime protections being extended to gays, lesbians, and bisexuals last November. Several other locations throughout the state have full antidiscrimination protections on the books.

No sooner had the ink dried on Governor Ed Rendell's executive order than across the country, the San Diego City Council unanimously passed its own protections, adding gender identity to the city's human dignity ordinance. The HDO goes much further than Pennsylvania's executive order, covering employment, housing, city services, business establishments, and educational institutions.

Less than a week after the dual victories in Pennsylvania and San Diego, the entire state of California got into the act.

Assembly Bill 196, which has been wending its way through the California Assembly and state Senate since January, was signed by Governor Gray Davis on Saturday, August 2, making California the fourth state of the union – and the largest so far – to pass a statewide antidiscrimination bill. It's actually a very simple piece of legislation, expanding existing code on sexual discrimination and harassment by including gender – as defined to include gender identity – in the definition of sex.

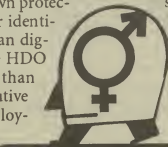
I personally had reservations that Davis would sign this legislation, given his history of antagonism toward transgender-related bills, as well as his current recall battle.

There are now more than 60 locations in the country that are providing antidiscrimination protections, including four states with complete protections, two other states that have protections for state employees, and four additional states – Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York – that have interpreted their sex-discrimination laws as being

inclusive of transgender identities.

Every time I hear about one of these bills actually passing, I can't help but be happy. Taking all three of these together, I find myself positively giddy. Each of these have their share of surprises.

San Diego is a fairly conservative location, sitting to the south of Orange County, California's Republican stronghold. The activists who pushed for this law did their best to keep this fight quiet, and asked for as little publicity as possible before the bill's passage. To hear of a unanimous passage of such broad protections in San Diego is very surprising.



Transmissions

Pennsylvania's Rendell did not have to sign an executive order to protect transgender employees. In fact, he could have just waited for others in his state to work up a bill, let it make it up to his level, then signed it into law. It would have been a much slower process, to be sure, but it would have likely been more politically cautious for the governor to take a slow route.

The same could be said of Davis's signing of AB196. He could have just as easily let it become law without his signature, by just letting the bill sit on his desk for a few weeks. Since he is facing what could be a difficult recall election, I'm actually surprised he didn't take this route. It could have been the "safest" route for him, as it would be the least likely to anger either the LGBT community or the religious right.

Yet both of these governors – as well as the San Diego City Council – took a chance and signed an order or a bill that enhances the rights of transgender and gender variant people in their respective states. They did it because they realize that transgender people deserve to be treated fairly, and with the same respect and equality provided to all.

I've long railed against the inequalities that transgender people face in this society. We are still murdered at a staggering rate, with three murders since July 20.



Christine Smith

We face discrimination without recourse in vastly more locations than those in which we are protected. We still also have no national protections in either hate crimes or discrimination, and current attempts to gain those rights for gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans still lack specific transgender protections.

Indeed, there is still a lot of work to be done, and I encourage those who have won these three and other battles to share their skills with those in other places who are still fighting for protections under the law.

Yet these three wins show that we may well be turning a corner. City councils are making it clear that the rights of transgender people are necessary, while state lawmakers at the highest levels are signing bills and executive orders in the name of fairness, and as a show of their convictions.

For myself, these successes have a personal meaning. I know what it feels like to face discrimination and know that there was simply nothing I could do about it. Because of that, I have pushed hard for the passage of AB196 in my home state, just as I did for two previous attempts to get California to pass similar measures. I've also helped out with similar bills in other areas of the country.

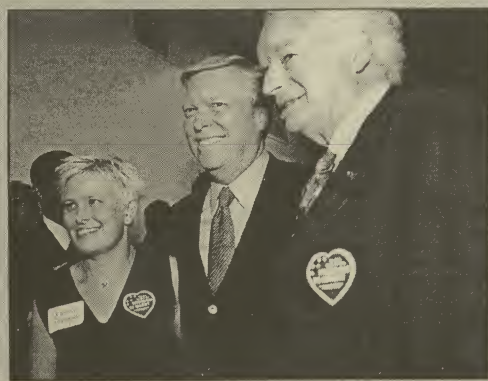
Today, I can tell you what it is like to wake up with more rights than you had the day before. To know that even if you do face discrimination that day, you do have some small ability to challenge it. To feel that your rights are equal, and that your dignity is protected.

That is a feeling of joy. ▼

Gwen Smith is very happy to be here right about now. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Gephardt courts gay voters

Democratic presidential candidate Representative Dick Gephardt (Missouri), center, visited the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco on Thursday, July 31 with his wife, Jane, and out lesbian daughter, Chrissy, left. The Gephardt family joined Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and PFLAG national president Sam Thoron, right welcomed Gephardt at the meet and greet. Thoron praised Gephardt's decision to join PFLAG, saying it marked a turning point when a presidential candidate and someone elected to national office can express support for his lesbian daughter by publicly joining the organization.



Jane Pittman/Citland

POLITICS

Despite no clear leader, Demos see hope in polls

by Wayne Friday

After nearly seven months of intensive campaigning by nine Democratic candidates for the chance to oppose **George W. Bush** in November 2004, the race for the party's nomination appears to be every bit as unsettled as it was at the first of the year.

Depending on which poll you read, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean**, Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry**, Connecticut Senator **Joseph Lieberman**, and North Carolina Senator **John Edwards** seem to be somewhere near the top of the Democratic bunch, with Missouri Representative **Richard Gephardt**, who picked up the endorsement last week of the national Teamsters, also still in the mix.

To be sure, the unexpected success of Dean, an insurgent, changes the dynamics of the Democratic race because it appears that he will now apparently have the necessary campaign funds, thanks to a smart Internet drive, to at least compete with the other, better-known candidates like Kerry, Lieberman, and Edwards. Dean should be highly competitive in both the Iowa caucuses and the nation's first primary to be held in Dean's neighboring New Hampshire.

While no single Democrat appears to have emerged as a clear front-runner for the nomination, all of them — with the exception of Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (Ohio), the Reverend **Al Sharpton**, and former Illinois Senator **Carol Moseley Braun** — have reasons to think they truly can emerge with their party's presidential nomination next August at the convention in Boston.

Gephardt, who also ran briefly for president back in 1988, is popular as one of the party's leading liberals, and has broad appeal to labor groups, but has had problems raising money to date. Edwards has done well raising money, but has not, as of yet, moved up in the polls. Some think Edwards, a Southerner, would be a great bet for the vice presidential spot. Florida Senator **Bob Graham** was late getting into the race. His fundraising to date has been somewhat weak, but he has emerged as one of Bush's harshest critics, particularly on the Iraq war issue.

Kerry began the campaign appearing at least poised to claim the front-runner mantle, but prostrate surgery in February slowed his campaign down and his support for the resolution authorizing the war in Iraq clearly cost him with antiwar activists.

Lieberman, **Al Gore's** vice presidential running mate in 2000, has high name recognition, is very popular with some pockets of voters, but has not emerged from the field as was expected.

So, how does one of these Democratic hopefuls eventually emerge from the crowded field? One of them will have to find his voice and emerge as the candidate to take on Bush on the worsening economy. Finding the exact way to resonate with voters and presenting an economic alternative to Bush could be the answer. Make no mistake, Bush is going

to play the "war president" card to the hilt. Assuming the war doesn't drag on and we continue to lose a couple of Americans a day throughout the next few months, Bush will pretty well run on the national security platform. With any luck (at this rate, he'll need plenty of it) those dreaded weapons of mass destruction in Iraq might be found one day, or even, perhaps, **Osama bin Laden** and/or **Saddam Hussein**.

The recall

By the time you read this I suspect that **Arnold Schwarzenegger** will have waffled out of the recall contest; former L.A. Mayor **Richard Riordan** will have waddled in; **Arianna Huffington** may or may not be in — she told reporters last week that she and her former husband, **Michael**, won't both run "because it would be too hard on their kids" (hey, how hard would that be on the rest of us, Arianna?); Green Party perennial **Peter Camejo**, **Audie Bock**, **Larry Flynt**, and the rest of the crowd may or may not be in. Hey, until 5 p.m. this Saturday, August 9, it's all one big political "chicken" game — everyone waiting until the last hour to see who does or does not take the plunge. Democracy gone amok, but then, what the hell, it is California, right?

Politics and people

Just minutes after Governor **Gray Davis** completed the budget signing ceremony Saturday, August 2, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) received a call from the governor's Sacramento office informing him that Davis then immediately signed Leno's AB196 into law; AB 196 protects Californians from gender based discrimination in housing and employment in the state. Congratulations and well done, Mr. Assemblyman.

"Mindful that we are all sinners," (sayeth George W. Bush when asked about gay marriage last week) — so the pope and the president have declared world war on same-sex marriage. Hardly a surprise, was it? A decision that could come as early as this week out of a Massachusetts court could end that state's marriage laws discriminating against gays and lesbians, paving the way for possible same-sex marriage for the first time in U.S. history, and neither the pope nor the president are about to be caught with their pants down on the issue. Hell no, Bush wants a constitutional amendment. As next year's presidential election draws closer, Dubya, quite naturally, starts making moves to the heart of his political base, the country's religious right, and jumps right into the hot-button issue of gay marriages with this statement: "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman and I think we [the U. S. government] ought to codify that one way or another. And we've got our lawyers looking at the best way to do that." You can bet your ass that Bush has Attorney General **John**

Ashcroft and "our lawyers" over at the Justice Department making damned sure that same-sex marriages never happen on Bush's watch — even if it means tampering with the U.S. Constitution. And those Log Cabin Republicans actually thought Bush meant it when he kept repeating that "I'm a uniter, not a divider" all through that campaign. Anyway, am I the only one to notice the bizarre coincidence of the timing between the statements from the Vatican and the White House on this issue?

And then a reader writes that President Bush ordered the American flag to be flown at half-staff to honor the passing of comic great **Bob Hope**, but wonders why he doesn't keep it there to honor those American soldiers who are still dying daily in Iraq.

Legislative term limits is raising its ugly head again: Word from Sacramento has it that there is already a move to replace Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) as early as next March and Assemblyman **Joe Nation** (D-San Rafael) is said to be one of those in the running for the top Assembly spot.

In Phoenix, a conservative group filed a petition with the Arizona Supreme Court last week asking it to void Governor **Janet Napolitano's** executive order barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in some state agencies. The Alliance Defense Fund says the governor overstepped her authority; the governor's legal counsel said she will fight the lawsuit.

And in Helena, Montana, Democratic state legislators say their Republican counterparts were out of line in filing a court brief supporting the state university system's decision not to extend health benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian employees. Democratic legislators say the friend-of-the-court brief reads as if all legislative members supported the systems policy's and Democrats want it clearly known that they don't.

The District 6 Democrats, and **Fredrick Hobson** (a.k.a. Miss Kitty) will be hosting the annual District 6 Club Honor Awards at a reception on Tuesday August 12, 6-9 p.m. at the Cat Club, 1190 Folsom Street. Honorees will include haberdasher **Wilkes Bashford**, *Asian Week* editor **Samson Wong**, and *Bay Area Reporter* news editor **Cynthia Laird** (\$50 donation asked; 415-346-5584 for info).

In City Hall news, former B.A.R. reporter **Dennis Conkin** is now roaming the hall as a part-time staffer for District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**.

My "Quote of the Week" comes from state Attorney General **Bill Lockyer**, speaking of Governor Gray Davis's upcoming recall election. Lockyer: "He [Davis] never built up a reservoir of good will with voters and he's been a loner in the Democratic Party. You all know that Gray doesn't have any friends; it's a Shakespearean tragedy in a way."

And how was your week? ▼



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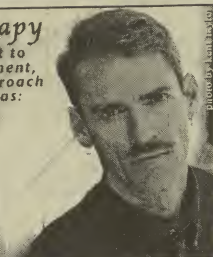
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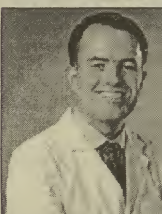
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Marriage: Mend it, don't end it

by Dale Carpenter

Opponents of gay marriage often warn that gays want to destroy marriage. This is preposterous and alarmist. However, in a recent *Washington Blade* column, openly lesbian law professor Nancy Polikoff indeed argues for "abolishing the legal status of marriage for everyone." There are multiple problems with her radical proposal, which boil down to: it shouldn't happen, it ain't gonna happen, and it needlessly fuels the opposition to gay marriage.

Since the 1970s there's been an undercurrent of opposition to marriage on the gay left. Lesbian feminists have criticized its sexist roots, including long-discarded laws subordinating wives to husbands. Gay male sexual liberationists have seen it as stultifying, directing people into dreary traditional patterns of living.

When the idea of gay marriage caught on in the early 1990s, thanks in part to gay conservatives like Andrew Sullivan, these critics initially dismissed it as "assimilationist." We're not "just like straights," they like to say, and we don't want to be.

The argument for gay marriage depends, however, on the idea that gays are "just like straights" in every important respect. Gay couples are just as capable of love, commitment, mutual caretaking, and raising children.

Polikoff acknowledges that marriage confers important advantages to married couples in everything from health benefits to taxation. Gay couples, she agrees, should get these benefits.

But, Polikoff argues, everyone else should get them too. "A legal system that gives benefits to married couples but withholds those benefits from other types of relationships that help people flourish and fulfill critical social functions harms many people, both straight and gay," she writes. A man caring for his sick mother should be able to have her covered on his health insurance, for example. A woman should not lose her home to pay estate taxes when her cohabiting sister dies.

The main problem, according to Polikoff and other critics, is that marriage privileges some relationships over others. If gay marriage is allowed it will still favor married couples over unmarried couples and other relationships. Indeed, under Polikoff's argument, it's hard to see why legal recognition should be limited to couples. Why not recognize relationships of three, four, or more people?

There are good reasons to reject Polikoff's idea. The institution of marriage represents an enormous social investment, both in the couple and in the children they often raise. Every single one of the more than 1,000 marital benefits granted at the state and federal level costs us money, whether it's in the form of a Social Security death benefit or tax breaks on transfers of wealth between spouses.

There are many reasons we make that huge investment in marriage but not in other relationships. Marriage adds to social stability, including by curbing promiscuity. It furnishes caretakers to individuals who would otherwise rely on the state. Married people are healthier and wealthier than single people or unmarried cohabitants. Marriage affords a secure environment for children, who do better in married households. Even with today's high divorce rates, marital relationships are also more enduring, which makes our investment in them all the wiser.

Why do they last longer? Partly because of the benefits they get. But mostly, I think, because of the tremendous social support they receive. This support comes out of our history and tradition, not mere laws. The powerful social expectation of marriage becomes equally powerful encouragement and assistance from family and friends for the couple to stay together.

Marriage is important for the social affirmation it offers gay relationships, not just for the legal benefits. Not even a landmark Supreme Court decision can offer that deep affirmation, contrary to what Polikoff suggests. No "civil union" or "domestic partnership" can offer it either.

By marrying, couples signal to society in a culturally and historically unique way the strength of their commitment. No other relationship can quite replicate that signal. Society understandably rewards the married couple's public commitment, but cannot be as confident about the durability or depth of other arrangements.

There is nothing inherently wrong with extending some benefits to other caring relationships. Maybe a son should be able to secure health benefits for his ailing mother. But every extension of benefits entails financial costs. Each of these proposed benefits should be weighed on its own merits, applied to those relationships that seem more than transient.

Polikoff probably assumes that abolishing marriage means everyone would get its goodies. At last, health care for all! Don't bet on it. The more likely outcome is that standard marital benefits would be eliminated to help pay for benefits accorded the newly recognized relationships. The social investment in former marriages would decrease, diminishing the return we all get from that bygone institution.

Marriage, with its culturally and historically rich meaning, and its critical role in children's upbringing, deserves its privileged position. There's just too much at stake to abolish it.

Because of its special place in our culture, and because of its reach far back into our history, marriage isn't going anywhere any time soon. So proposals to end marriage are a nice parlor game for academics, but nothing more.

In this case, though, the game has political consequences. Already a leading opponent of gay marriage, Stanley Kurtz, has cited Polikoff's and others' work as proof that gays are out to destroy marriage.

Polikoff and Kurtz are wrong. We aren't fighting for the right to marry only to see our marriages abolished. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Milk Club

◀ page 4

candidate, and "no endorsement" for a second choice district attorney candidate.

Ranked choice voting — as opposed to voting on individual candidates — was used at the Milk Club meeting. The Ammiano/Leal/no endorsement combination won with 62 percent of the vote (although a later analysis revealed Ammiano secured first choice with 89 percent of the club members). The Hallinan/no endorsement combination won with 55 percent of the vote.

"I'm particularly proud of this endorsement because of the legacy of Harvey Milk," said Ammiano of the Milk Club endorsement. "Harvey taught me how to be a fighter and a leader who offers hope, and that's the kind of mayor I'm going to be."

Tony Winnicker, Leal's spokesman, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Leal was "thrilled" to receive the ranked second choice.

"Given the club's relationship with Tom over the years, it's appropriate he would receive first choice, but Susan is very pleased that her progressive positions on issues were recognized," said Winnicker, who added that the Milk Club ranked endorsement shows that "the queer community is really united on the importance of electing a queer mayor."

On Wednesday, August 6, however, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that instant runoff voting would not be implemented this fall.

Elections chief John Arntz announced to the Board of Supervisors' finance committee on Tuesday that the mechanisms were not in place, particularly since the city now has to prepare for an October recall election.

Voters approved the instant runoff in March 2002, and the system was scheduled to be up and running this November. Tuesday's announcement drew criticism from voters and elected officials, with Supervisor Jake McGoldrick blaming mayoral front-runner Supervisor Gavin Newsom and his supporters for the delay.

"It's clear that there are certain political aspirations to be served by thwarting the will of the voters," said McGoldrick. "It bespeaks incredible arrogance."

Many believe that with IRV's implementation, Newsom's chances of winning the office of mayor would not be as good. The system continues to tally ballots in the event that no candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, making it likely that the person with the most second-choice votes could win the race.

Despite Tuesday's IRV announcement, **page 19 ▶**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Soar spot

by Jane Warner

1 8th and Castro, August 3, 7:50 p.m.: A man was listed in critical condition after crashing his motorcycle in front of the Bank of America building at 18th and Castro. Witnesses reported that the victim, who was riding a black Harley-Davidson, was traveling northbound on Castro approaching the intersection of 18th Street when he suddenly lost control and crashed head first into the side of a parked taxicab. The victim's skull cap helmet was ripped from his head and wrapped around the taxi's side mirror. The victim then struck another car before falling head first, without his helmet, onto the pavement. Bystanders rushed to his aid as emergency personnel responded to the scene. The 40-year-old victim was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he underwent surgery for extensive head injuries. Traffic investigators stated that speed and alcohol may have played a part in the cause of the accident.

Batman

Fronting Harvey's, 500 Castro, August 1, 11:21 p.m.: Police responded to the intersection of 18th and Castro on a report of a man swinging a baseball bat and running through traffic. Upon arrival, officers found the suspect hiding inside the lobby of Bank of America and placed him in hand-

cuffs. The security officer for the bank showed police where the suspect had thrown the baseball bat into some bushes. Two witnesses told the officers that they were standing in front of Harvey's when the suspect approached them in an aggressive manner holding the baseball bat and told them, "I'll protect you." The men didn't know what he was talking about, and they watched him run against traffic into the bank. A background check revealed that the suspect had a \$25,000 warrant for his arrest. The 44-year-

old man was taken to Mission Station where he was booked for the warrant and held for psychiatric evaluation.

Robbin'

Becks Motor Lodge, 2222 Market Street, August 2, 10:10 p.m.: A man called police to report that his car had been stolen. When officers arrived, the victim said that he was driving around Collingwood Park the night before and pulled over to talk to a man. After a brief conversation, he asked his new acquaintance if he wanted to "party." The man agreed and got into his car, a red Firebird, and the two drove to Becks Motor Lodge, where the victim had a room. The man told officers that the two started to have sex, but the victim stopped because his date "wasn't my type." He fell asleep and when he woke he noticed his leather jacket, wallet, and car keys were gone. So was his new acquain-

tance. The man looked out the window of his room and saw that his car was missing as well.

A few hours later, another officer on patrol near Sanchez and Market heard a car alarm. The officer looked over and saw a man standing in front of a red Firebird with the hood open. The man appeared to be trying to turn off the alarm. The officer pulled up and asked if he needed help. The man looked surprised to see the officer and told the officer that it was his friend's car, who ran off with the keys. The officer found the man's story suspicious, and ran the plates, discovering that the car was stolen. The suspect was placed under arrest and taken to Mission Station.

Once at the station, the suspect confessed to taking the car, but said he had only borrowed it. He said that once back at Collingwood Park, a friend of his forcibly took the keys and sped off in the borrowed vehicle. The suspect then walked around all night, he said, until he found the car parked at Market and Sanchez. When he tried to open the door, however, the alarm sounded, and that's when officers arrived.

After hearing the man's story, officers booked the 19-year-old suspect for possession of stolen property, vehicle theft, and theft from a person. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



Harass case

◀ page 1

effort to hash out a settlement.

Petrelis pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor counts of making obscene or threatening telephone calls with the intent to annoy. One count for the Department of Public Health and one for the San Francisco Chronicle. Pasquarelli pleaded no contest to three counts of the same charge, one for DPH, one for the Chronicle, the third charge involved offi-

cials with the University of California, San Francisco.

Following the no contest pleas, the judge made a finding of guilt, as is standard procedure, Vermeulen said.

The case stems from numerous phone calls and faxes sent to the officials beginning in October 2001. The phone calls and faxes concerned reports in the San Francisco Chronicle and B.A.R. about the rising rates of syphilis among gay men; Petrelis and Pasquarelli alleged that health of-

page 17 ▶

So, all I have to do is talk on my phone, I get paid \$10 each time! Yeah, and they only need 1-3 calls per participant. But, by me chatting on the phone to support scientific research I may have the chance to win \$1000! Wow!



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Gay Men's Chorus belts out tunes



Members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus performed at the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau's gala reception Sunday, August 3 at Pacific Bell Park for the Meeting Professionals International's 2003 World Education Congress, which met in the city this week. The CVB celebrated the city's diverse neighborhoods during the event, including the Castro, South of Market, Haight-Ashbury, the Mission, and Hayes Valley. According to officials with the CVB, MPI attendees will book an estimated \$150 million in new meeting business in San Francisco over the next five years.

Lawmakers drop ADAP copay plan (for now)

by Matthew S. Bajko

After months of lobbying against a controversial funding scheme for the

state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program proposed by Governor Gray Davis, AIDS advocates successfully dodged a budget bullet they feared would be devastating for people living with AIDS and HIV.

In the state budget signed by Davis on Saturday, August 2, the plan to impose copayments on ADAP clients was dropped. The state's ADAP program will see an increase of \$27 million to \$211 million without forcing those in the program to pay for a portion of their medicines.

But with California already facing an estimated \$8 billion deficit next fiscal year, AIDS advocates remain alarmed that the copayment plan could resurface.

"We must be ever vigilant. In tough economic times there will be forces interested in establishing a copayment. But for all the reasons we argued against it this year, we will argue against it next year," said openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco).

Whether Davis fights back efforts to remove him from office or a Republican emerges as his replacement in the recall, advocates fear the copayment plan could be part of the program's funding equation in 2004.

"I could certainly imagine him coming back to a copayment proposal," said Dana Van Gorder, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's state policy director. "The Legislature is so clearly hostile to this idea of charging ADAP clients but that could change. It just depends on how bad the budget is next year."

With part of the additional funding for ADAP coming from one-time funding sources, Van Gorder said the fight over funding for the program will only intensify next year.

"Some of that funding, particularly the drug rebate money we used, was one-time money and won't be available to us at all next year," he said. "So it is just going to be much more difficult to put funding together."

For many people who depend on ADAP for life-saving drugs, the copayment plan would have been especially hard to swallow. Most ADAP recipients are on disability and already have limited incomes, and they feared they would have to choose between their drugs and food or housing if forced into paying copayments.

"Because I am on disability and unable to work and have extremely limited funds, I don't know if I could have afforded it," said Robbi Ernst, 55 and HIV-positive since 1983.

Ernst enrolled in ADAP in May after moving back to San Francisco from Texas. He said apart from the financial consequences a copayment plan would have imposed on ADAP clients, another downside would have fallen on the community.

"A lot of people who receive services under ADAP do volunteer work in our community. If they cannot get their medicine they will get sicker and can't do their volunteer work," said Ernst. "I don't know if [the copayment plan] will come back, but I am greatly concerned if it does."

While the final budget signed by Davis spared the ADAP program, other programs did take a hit. The state will cut \$1.2 million to HIV prevention programs in public schools, and cut \$2.3 million to research conducted through the University of California.

The state is transferring \$7 million from a program that provides medical monitoring of AIDS patients to ADAP. While counties may elect to take up the expense of that program, they also face budget shortfalls, making it unlikely county governments will be able to find the funds.

The budget also cuts reimbursement to Medi-Cal providers by 5 percent, an action that AIDS advocates predict could affect services for some people living with AIDS. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS



District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, third from left, convened a planning meeting for Castro Halloween Monday.

Halloween street party goes corporate

by Matthew S. Bajko

For years the annual street party in the Castro on Halloween night has been the unwanted child of city and civic leaders. No one wanted to take ownership of the unruly event. Most crossed their fingers and hoped for the best.

This year, not only is the party an official city event but Halloween is going corporate.

Media and advertising giants Comcast, Viacom, and Clear Channel Communications, local independent television channel KRON Channel 4, and the company that produces the energy drink Red Bull have already lined up to help sponsor this year's event.

Organizers hope more companies, including alcoholic beverage companies, will come aboard to help defray the costs of having live entertainment and beefed up security measures at this year's Halloween.

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty announced the sponsorship plans during a monthly Halloween planning meeting Monday, August 4 in City Hall. Nearly 50 people—including Castro merchants and residents, the fire department, police and sheriff's departments, emergency medical services, entertainment commission members, and city department officials—convened for a "nuts and bolts" meeting to continue mapping out plans for this year's Halloween.

Those plans will include a major Bay Area-wide publicity and advertising campaign to spread the word that this year's Halloween will be a dry event. Police are setting up 20 entry gates into the street party at which revelers found with alcohol will be asked either to return it to their cars or throw it out.

Police also intend to begin clearing the streets after midnight when organizers will shut down four entertainment stages. And for the first time since the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Community United Against Violence ended their hosting of Halloween, donations are expected to be collected at the gates.

The plans for this year's celebration are a remarkable change from just two years ago, when business leaders in the Castro pleaded with news organizations not to cover the street party, one of the city's largest outdoor gatherings.

"Two years ago there wasn't any structure in place. We were trying to downplay the effect of an unruly crowd, which is why the merchants didn't want the media to publicize the event," said Herb Cohn, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "Flash forward two years and you have a city-sponsored event and a lot of resources aimed at making sure it is not an unruly crowd."

After last year's Halloween turned particularly violent, Dufty pledged to rein in the violence and mayhem as part of his campaign for supervisor. Since January he has been holding meetings to discuss how to make Halloween a safe and fun event.

With the swearing in of the entertainment commission this summer, that body has also begun working on Halloween. The commissioners have been working with members of the Late Night Coalition to program the night's entertainment. Castro resident and coalition member John Wood is spearheading those plans.

Wood announced during the meeting that the main stage will be led by Heklina of Trannyshack and will feature cabaret acts, drag shows, and possibly, hourly costume contests to give people an incentive for dressing up. A sec-

ond stage will feature live acts by local bands and the other two stages will feature dance music spun by various DJs.

The stages will be placed at Castro and 19th, and along Market Street at Castro, Noe, and Sanchez streets. Red Bull is sponsoring one of the stages, and Wood said he hopes to have other businesses or private groups spon-

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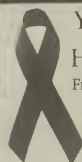
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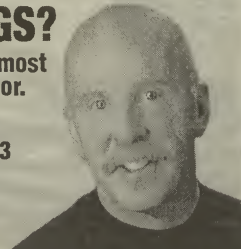
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Davis

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a woman.

Davis has long said he opposes gay marriage due to the teachings of the Catholic Church. But he has been a vocal supporter of domestic partnerships, and aides to the governor are quick to point out Davis has signed into law several bills extending rights to domestic partners.

As for civil unions, Davis has never taken a stand on the issue. His plan to form a task force to examine adopting civil unions, which he disclosed to the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview in 2002, never materialized.

Gay rights groups and elected officials dropped efforts to pursue civil unions in California partly because of Davis's hesitation to support such an approach. Instead, they have pushed for strengthening the state's domestic partnerships.

The Vatican's stance has increased concern about whether Davis will sign AB205, which would elevate the state's domestic partners to the same level as Vermont's civil unions and grant nearly all the rights and benefits heterosexual married couples receive to same-sex couples.

The recall campaign against Davis is also ratcheting up pressure to have AB205 signed into law. With the chance a conservative right-wing Republican could unseat the governor, gay rights leaders and gay and lesbian lawmakers in Sacramento are pushing to have the bill become law before the October 7 election.

Already passed by the Assembly, the Senate Appropriations Committee is set to hear the bill on August 18. Gay rights groups expect the bill to sail through the Senate approval process and be sent to the governor for his signature by late September or early October. Davis has yet to state whether he will sign the bill.

It is unclear if the Vatican's statement will impact Davis's support for domestic partnerships. A week after it was released, Davis

has yet to talk publicly about it.

While most gay rights activists doubt the Vatican's opposition to domestic partnerships will impact the governor's long-standing support for such relationships, they are stepping up lobbying efforts to ensure he does indeed sign AB205.

"Governor Davis, despite his personal religious beliefs, has always supported domestic partnerships, so we know he supports the institution of domestic partnerships," said Toni Broaddus, Equality California's program director. "I see no reason why he wouldn't continue to support domestic partnerships."

Though Broaddus added, "We never take anything for granted."

When contacted Friday, August 1 by the *B.A.R.* for comment about the Vatican document, Davis's Sacramento press office forwarded the request to an aide working on the campaign to oppose the recall. Reached Tuesday morning, the aide said he had yet to speak to Davis directly about the Vatican's antigay stance.

"The one thing I can tell you for sure is this governor really has been about bringing people together, especially around issues of gay and lesbian inclusion," said Eric Bauman, an openly gay special assistant to Davis who is currently on leave to work on the antirecall campaign.

Bauman pointed out Davis has long disagreed with the Catholic Church's stance against abortion and has consistently upheld a woman's right to choose.

"When it comes to these issues the governor is going to do what he believes is right and charges from conservatives have not stopped him from signing a wide variety of bills that improve the lives of gay and lesbian Californians and 14 laws that protect a woman's right to choose," said Bauman. "And frankly, this latest communication is probably no different because, clearly, the governor believes in a separation of church and state, despite his deeply held Catholic beliefs."

When challenged as to why then the governor opposes gay

marriage, Bauman would not comment. But he did signal that there is no reason to believe Davis will not sign AB205.

"All I can say is for months this governor has had his staff engaged on AB205 and its author and sponsors. He has said, long before there was a recall effort, that he wanted to expand domestic partner rights this year," said Bauman. "If anybody thinks that the threats of the right wing in relation to the recall are going to cause this governor not to support bills he thinks make people's lives better, I suggest they look at AB196 that he signed on Saturday."

Despite those assurances, gay rights activists are not leaving anything to chance. Two days after the Vatican released its document, gay rights groups blitzed supporters with action alerts calling on them to contact Davis and press him to support the bill. Activists have also questioned why Davis remains silent on whether he will sign the bill.

Davis's aides have long maintained the governor does not take positions on bills until they cross his desk. But he recently announced he would sign a bill allowing illegal immigrants to hold driver's licenses, despite the fact no such bill has yet to be passed by the Legislature this year.

Passage of AB205 is sure to provoke supporters of the recall. Conservative religious groups are already using Davis's gay rights record to attack him, and are sure to use his signing of the bill against him.

Gay rights activists also intend to base their support for Davis in the recall election on whether he signs AB205 into law.

"I think when all is said and done it is going to be much more favorable for him to sign AB205. The people who will vote against him will vote against him regardless of AB205," said Molly McKay, executive director of Marriage Equality California. "His vote on AB205 is critical for people to come out and support him. I don't see a downside for him except for getting a nastygram from the pope." ▼

AB196

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"It's great to see that people have the courage to stand up for their convictions and do what's right," said Thom Lynch, the community center's new executive director.

"In the context of the day, when world leaders like the pope, the president, and the attorney general are waging war on social progress, this bill is an enormous victory," said Leno, who added that "every victory we can claim is resistance to the controlling regressive forces."

"We applaud Governor Davis for his continued leadership on

civil rights issues," said a statement from Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, the statewide lobbying group that sponsored the bill. "By signing this bill Governor Davis has made it clear that efforts by antigay extremists to remove him from office will not cause him to waiver in his strong commitment to ending discrimination against LGBT Californians. His actions in signing this legislation will help ensure that individuals are judged on their merit, not their gender characteristics."

Theresa Sparks and Dion Manley, representatives from the Alice B. Toklas LGBT and Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic clubs, respectively, spoke of the law's importance and the need to secure such basic rights for everyone.

"When you come out as a transgender person," said Manley, who noted that even in San Francisco, 70 percent of transgenders are unemployed, "you can lose it all."

San Francisco Human Rights Commission staff member Larry Brinkin, who said that San Francisco receives hundreds of gender-related discrimination complaints a year, praised the law not only as a tool for fighting back but a way to thwart such discrimination in the first place.

"What we've found is that the law can actually prevent discrimination," said Brinkin. "The law

being on the books can act as a deterrent."

San Francisco passed transgender nondiscrimination legislation in 1994; it took effect in 1995.

California's law is now scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2004.

The past – and future

In many ways, as Leno noted before the bill's passage, AB196 simply makes official what has been happening already.

The FEHA department, for instance, already accepts and investigates gender identity discrimination cases based on strong case law precedent; numerous court decisions from across the nation have ruled that existing laws prohibiting sex discrimination should be interpreted to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression.

Still, when AB196 takes effect, something significant will happen nationwide: because California is the largest state, a total of 68 million Americans – or 24 percent of the U.S. population – will live in a jurisdiction with explicit language prohibiting antitransgender discrimination, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Many other jurisdictions, said NGLTF, have non-explicit coverage, through court or agency interpretations of existing antidis-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Jim Reid, ShelterOne facing further fight

by Zak Szymanski

The drama surrounding Jim Reid's campaign for mayor continued to heat up over the past several days, with Reid receiving a letter from his landlord about the illegal "ShelterOne" homeless structure on his property, and Reid's neighbors and associates contacting the *Bay Area Reporter* to tell their sides of the story.

Last week, the B.A.R. reported on a conflict between Reid and his former campaign volunteer Jack W. Davis (no relation to political consultant Jack Davis). Hooked up through Reid's New York-based fundraiser, Davis and Reid apparently agreed that Davis would fly from Nashville to San Francisco to help with Reid's campaign.

According to Reid, Davis repeatedly showed up to work drunk, and when he was fired, retaliated by reporting Reid's illegal ShelterOne to authorities. ShelterOne is the 10-foot house Reid built as a solution to the city's homeless problem; his plan is to build numerous units and install them either throughout the city or on a plot of land at Hunters Point.

But Davis, who was unavailable for comment last week, contacted the B.A.R. after the original story ran to assert that the conflicts between himself and Reid arose because he took issue with what he called the illegal activities of Reid's campaign.

Davis said he flew out to San Francisco hoping for a good job. What he got instead, he said, was matched up with a "crook" who refused to listen to Davis's concerns and ideas.

"I am an intelligent man, and I would try to tell him he couldn't

do certain things," said Davis. "He would basically say, 'You're just a homeless whatever' ... he would dismiss me as stupid and uneducated."

In a letter to the B.A.R. Davis alleged several improprieties on the part of Reid.

Reid sent two of his volunteers to an unlicensed acupuncturist in the Bay Area to rid them of their addictions, said Davis. The acupuncturist was the father of Reid's New York fundraiser Wun-jei Cheng, who promised Reid a campaign donation of \$10,000 if he could get the acupuncture publicized and his father's license reinstated, according to Davis.

Reid acknowledged that his volunteers were treated by Cheng's father, whose license lapsed, he said, due to a language barrier. But there was never any monetary agreement, said Reid.

Davis also said Reid asked him to drive his electric car around town despite its lack of a windshield; that Reid knew ShelterOne was illegal when he housed volunteers there; and that he used his campaign funds to remodel his home. Reid did not deny these allegations in last week's story.

As for the allegations of Davis's on-the-job conduct, Davis said, "I am 45 years old and, by law, I can consume alcohol. I have had no problems with the law in San Francisco. Mr. Reid, on the other hand, has had numerous problems with the law. I worked on the average of 16 hours a day on Jim's campaign trying to promote his idea legally while he sat home trying to amass illegal campaign funds from his bedroom office."

"When I realized I was fighting, single-handedly I might add, a losing battle, I became quite disgruntled and depressed because I do not like crooked politicians."

Davis vowed to expose Reid's

activities to the public, and he said he did so by filing complaints with the Department of Building Inspection as well as the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

The Ethics Commission would not verify whether it was conducting an investigation. But DBI apparently did investigate, as Reid received a violation notice on July 22.

Reid's landlord e-mailed him a letter on August 1 that asked him to remove the structure from the property. The letter - forwarded to the B.A.R. by Reid - stated, "I have received a 'Notice of Violation' from the San Francisco Dept. of Building Inspection. Your demonstration module 'Shelter One' must be removed from my property at 116 Franconia St."

"I was given 10 days from the date of the 'Notice' to accomplish removal. The 'Notice' was dated 7/22/03 which means that today 8/1/03 was the deadline," said the landlord's letter. "I called the Building Dept. and asked for more time because I received the 'Notice' just yesterday. If 'Shelter One' is removed by 8/10/03 the 'Violation' will not be sent to 'Code Enforcement Div.' Please tell me ASAP on what date prior to 8/10/03 that you will remove 'Shelter One.' Thank You."

Reid's e-mailed response to his landlord was as follows: "I have nowhere to move ShelterOne and it would cost \$1,500.00 to get a crane and tow truck to move it anywhere. If you give me the notice from the city, I will take it to Frank Chiu, the head of the Building Department, and have him take care of it. He supports the idea of housing the homeless in ShelterOne houses."

"This notice was caused by a former volunteer, Jack Davis, calling the building department to

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AB196

◀ previous page

crimination provisions, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. Currently, 59 cities and counties - including Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, Louisville, New York City, and Pittsburgh - have enacted nondiscrimination ordinances that protect transgender people.

California's FEHA outlines protections for employees and prospective tenants who are pregnant and disabled, and also defines and prohibits sexual harassment and other forms of dis-

crimination. There are specific exceptions to those who must comply with FEHA; certain religious organizations, for instance, are not required to adopt FEHA standards where religious beliefs are interpreted to be compromised.


"The law does not in any way change or affect those business entities that must be in compliance with FEHA," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Those who must be in compliance with FEHA must continue to be," he said, while those already exempt will remain so.

AB196 now means protections that many take for granted, as well protections from more subtle

forms of gender based discrimination. National cases have included, for instance, women required to wear makeup, or women considered to be not feminine enough to excel in certain work environments.

As Tamara Lange of the American Civil Liberties Union summarized at Monday's press conference, a variety of people are now protected, including "butch women, as well as men who don't fit with the narrow stereotypes about what a man can be in America." ▼

The full text of AB196 can be found at www.eqca.org.



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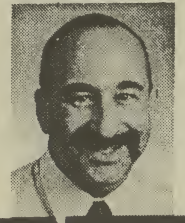
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2003 HIV prevention conference ends on a discordant note

by Bob Roehr

Boos and hisses during parts of Claude Allen's closing remarks at the 2003 HIV Prevention conference in Atlanta on July 30 clearly demonstrated the tension that exists between much of the HIV prevention community and the Bush administration. The deputy secretary for Health and Human Services appeared to be caught off guard by the reaction.

Allen tried to allay fears that recent prevention initiatives by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would result in defunding community-based prevention efforts. Those initiatives, such as increased testing and a focus on prevention for positives, were developed solely within CDC and without consultation with the affected communities.

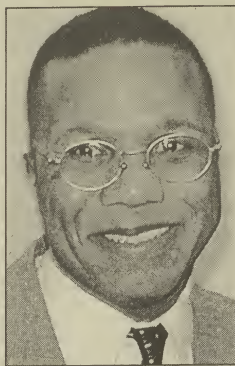
"The secretary [Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson] and I recognize that CBOs [community-based organizations] are integral players and will continue to play a very central role in implementing this new initiative. This will include an expanded role for CBOs in terms of HIV testing, outreach, and prevention counseling," he said. But the catch is, the CBO must be capable of adapting to the new initiatives.

Allen touted the Uganda ABC model of HIV prevention where "A is abstinence in young people. B is being faithful within a relationship. And C is condom use in high-risk populations, with the knowledge that condoms are not as effective in preventing all sexually transmitted diseases as they are in terms of preventing HIV."

"Encouraging young adults and youth to abstain is the only appropriate initial strategy to making informed decisions," ordered Allen. This evoked boos from the audience of 3,000 HIV prevention researchers and outreach workers. The boos intensified as Allen continued, "Whether youth identifies him or herself as heterosexual, gay, or questioning, delay of sexual debut must be the first message that they receive."

"For young adults, however, who choose not to honor delayed sexual debut, we must reinforce the importance of entering into relationships committed to monogamy." A ripple of laughter surged through the audience.

"Lastly, for these individuals [who do not abide by abstinence or monogamy] we must encour-



Deputy HHS Sec. Claude Allen

age the adoption of safer sex practices and the consistent use of condoms, with the knowledge, again, that they are not always 100 percent effective."

At one point during Allen's speech, activists walked the aisles holding up pink pieces of paper that read, "Stop the war on HIV prevention." Among the 10 points raised on the back of the flier were the Bush administration's flat funding of prevention activities; right-wing pressure to tone down explicit messages; and a criticism of the shift from community-based to more of a medical model for prevention activities.

"Abstinence-based programs have a role in dealing with young people before the onset of sexual activity and sexual activity," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, in a conversation at the close of the conference. "But it is clear that people need a comprehensive approach to health to make the decisions based on where they are in their lives at that time. And that is not the kind of program that he [Allen] advocated."

"I think that he was surprised by the reception that he got here. And the fact that so many people in the community and researchers were willing to stand up with the message was significant," Anderson said. "Hopefully it will push the discussion to where we need to go."

"For the last several months we haven't been heard at all," added Anderson. "We had to organize to make that happen, but it is clear that it is finally happening. We need to make sure that continues. There are still a lot of details on the initiative that need to be worked through."

"The new strategy will only provide health and education after someone has become HIV-positive, which we think is a tragedy," said David Munar with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. "This is not cholesterol we are talking about, where you can screen people and give them treatment. This is a 100 percent preventable disease and we have to do all we can to reach people before they become infected."

"Prevention is grossly underfunded already in communities of color and poor communities, among youth, among men who have sex with men. We're afraid that this initiative that focuses on testing and prevention for positives, two approaches that we think are valuable, are going to decimate our community."

"We are against lying to young people," said Munar. "We oppose abstinence only until marriage because that is not going to resonate with the most at-risk young people, especially Latino or gay, bisexual, transgender youth."

"We believe that they can assimilate all of the information and make informed decisions about their sexual health, if you reach them early enough, and give them all of the tools, and tell them about the benefits of abstinence, but also about the consequences of becoming sexually active."

"In some ways the conference feels like a farce," said Munar. "We have been allowed to have a rich exchange of ideas but yet funding is not going to increase and our very scarce resources have already been designated for these medical interventions and prevention for positives, testing at the expense of prevention."

"We are not getting the kind of support that we need from the government or the private sector at this point," added Marsha Martin, executive director of the AIDS Action Council. "We are being asked to do the impossible with nothing. That we can't do. So it is time to regroup."

She saw the conference as "a nice overview" of research and prevention activities. "But we didn't get into the conversation of what really needs to be done today, the strategies that we are going to have to develop to make a difference in this epidemic today."

Martin did point to a silver lining in Allen's speech. "I don't know that we have ever had a deputy secretary that has ever said safer sex as a practice of prevention of HIV. I think that we should seize on that." ▼

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Jim Reid

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complain. A street level building inspector, doing his job without knowing all the facts, posted the routine notice."

But it wasn't just Davis who complained to the city, according to Tom Mayer, a neighbor of Reid's. A former supporter of Reid, Mayer said that ShelterOne posed no problems "until two to three months ago, when it started to become a revolving door."

"When people started living there without plumbing and electricity, neighbors who supported Jim Reid and ShelterOne reported it," said Mayer, who added that Reid's landlord could face fines for Reid's ShelterOne violation as well as Reid's remodeling work on the house.

DBI Director Chiu was not reachable by telephone to confirm or deny that he would assist Reid in dismissing the complaint. On Tuesday, August 5, Reid told the B.A.R. that he had not yet contacted Chiu because he has been

busy campaigning. Reid also acknowledged that his landlord may face fines for the building code violations, but that he plans to deal with that issue.

Speaking from the 30th hour of his 36-hour Muni campaign marathon, Reid told the B.A.R. that Davis was misdirecting his efforts.

"Jack Davis came out here and contended he wanted to help the homeless," said Reid. "Instead, he's doing harm to the only candidate who really wants to build housing for homeless people." ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Johnson, RE (John)



Johnson, RE (John) — On July 15, 2003 in his San Rafael home of nearly two years, John peacefully succumbed to liver cancer after a determined and courageous 13-year battle with various cancers.

As he had wished, he was surrounded by his prized possessions, beloved friends and family, and a view of Mount Tamalpais. He was blessed with wonderful friends who were there with love and support, especially Greg Wulf and Alan Cappa who stayed with him in his final days. John was a beloved friend, son, brother and uncle.

Born in Sacramento, California on March 3, 1961, he lived in Marin Coun-

ty (San Anselmo, Fairfax and San Rafael) for the past 16 years working as a Landscape Gardener. He attended elementary school in Sacramento before moving to London, England at the age of 11. After finishing high school in London and traveling extensively throughout Europe, he returned to Sacramento in 1978 before settling in the Bay Area in 1980. In the mid-eighties, he moved to Marin County where he fell in love with the area, especially Mount Tamalpais and Point Reyes. He loved nature hikes and bike rides and would always take the time to "prune" and pick-up litter as he went along. He had a gift for growing glorious flowers, especially roses, and spent many hours in his garden nurturing his plants, viewing the moon, stars and sun and his favorite site of Mount Tamalpais.

John always extended a smile and helping hand to everyone he met, so was especially hurt by people who placed themselves above others and/or the environment. He was also an award-winning poet and gifted storyteller. To the delight of many Marin schoolchildren, he loved reading stories with the help of his puppetry skills. He also took great pleasure in "meeting of the minds" with friends and family and received much joy in watching his cherished nieces and nephews grow and mature with his influence.

Wherever John called home, he created his own sanctuary with the precious possessions he collected over the years. However, possessions were not as important as friendships and John received great joy in sharing his possessions with others by either displaying them in his home or by giving them as gifts. He will be greatly missed by all of his loved ones who were blessed to have known him.

Donations in John's memory may be made to Community Action Marin, 29 Mary Street, San Rafael, CA 94901 or an environmental charity of your choice. Interment service will be held early October in the Point Reyes area; please

contact Rev. Rob Rhudy at (916) 437-2860 for additional information.

Derick L. Wilson



June 22, 2003 at age 47.

He founded his own design business, Derick Wilson Designs (DWD) in 1982. His company specialized in window display, but also provided design services for merchandise displays, special event decorations, seasonal décor and interior design.

In 1970, Derick visited San Francisco for the first time and quickly fell in love with the city by the Bay. With his beloved pug dog Boudan, Derick finally relocated here in 1997, found a room with a view, and began acquiring major design accounts, including Alfred Dunhill, Billy Blue, and Kurt S. Adler, Inc. Derick also served on the board of the San Francisco Pride Parade Committee and provided pro-bono visual display for the San Francisco Red Cross retail store.

Along with his truly unique and creative "DWD touch," our dear friend and loved one will be missed. He is survived by many friends and his immediate family, including Aunt Inas Carroll of Texas and his cousin Rhonda Carroll of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family and friends request that memorial gifts be made to any of the following: National AIDS Memorial Grove, Positive Resource Center, Project Inform, Project Open Hand, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, or the STOP AIDS Project.

ions but want to stay together.

"I have deep confidence in the power of the Spirit to do amazing things and hold us with all our diversities in union with one another," he said.

The Reverend Steven Baines, a convention attendee and religious organizer for the People for the American Way, agreed. He noted that, as with the debate over the participation of women in the church 27 years ago, reports of schism and disharmony are being overreported.

"These are turning points for the church that open doors for so-

cial justice," Baines said. "The pillars and foundations of the church have not crumbled with these votes, nor will they with this historic vote."

The General Convention will now hear debate on a proposed liturgy blessing same-sex unions. It is expected that the Episcopal Church will adopt a resolution that will allow individual bishops to decide whether to bless gay and lesbian couples.

Cromey noted San Francisco's Diocese has allowed the blessing of such relationships for several years. ▼

Vermeulen said that his client, Pasquarelli, agreed to the plea-bargain in part to get on with his life.

"It was partly his desire to put it behind him," Vermeulen said.

Vermeulen acknowledged that Pasquarelli has suffered health problems since his time in jail. "He's had some difficulty with his health that came up when he was in jail. He's taking time to continue to focus on his health," Vermeulen said.

Petrelis told the *Los Angeles Times* that he too, suffered health problems during his time in jail.

Stuart Blumstein, Petrelis's attorney, said he could not comment "at this time," although he

added that Petrelis is "apologetic." "He's really moved on," Blumstein said.

Jeff Sheehy, one of those on the receiving end of the phone calls, told the B.A.R. that the plea-bargain agreement was "significant."

"It's significant that they admit their guilt and important to note that violence or threats of violence are not activism," said Sheehy, public information officer for the USCF AIDS Research Institute. "They targeted media outlets, public information officers, and scientists in an attempt to shut down debate. Hopefully, we can have these debates at this critical time of rising rates of HIV/AIDS." ▼

base its live coverage for the evening in the Castro. Valencia said the station would also help publicize the event's new focus and ban on alcohol this year.

"We can help to keep people home. That way people who want to participate can see the event on TV and still feel a part of it," said Valencia.

Halloween is only 85 days away and time is running out to finalize plans for this year's event. Negotiations over keeping BART trains running an hour later that night and closing the Castro Muni station are ongoing.

Discussions over the route for the third annual March of Light, a GLBT Day of the Dead celebration, are also ongoing. Plans call

for the march to begin at 6 p.m. this year and parade through the Castro and along Market Street.

This year's march, where participants incorporate light into their costumes and floats, is expected to include up to 25 contingents. Participants can still sign up by going to the event's Web site at www.marchoflight.org.

Talks are still under way to determine a dollar amount for donations and how to ensure the safety of volunteers staffing the gates. Groups interested in manning the gates should call Duffy's office at (415) 554-6968.

And the next Halloween planning meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, September 8 at City Hall in Room 201. ▼

San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council



The community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Title 1 and 11 funds (used to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties) invites and encourages members of the public to attend their meetings and provide public comment.

The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

Meeting info: www.SFCareCouncil.org
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Harass case

◀ page 11

ficials were trying to stigmatize gay sex and that one official, STD chief Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, called for a quarantine of gay men in a *Washington Monthly* article. Klausner said during a preliminary hearing in December 2001 that the writer of the *Monthly* piece paraphrased the discussions.

While staff members at the B.A.R., including this writer, were subjected to harassing phone calls by Petrelis and Pasquarelli, the newspaper was not part of the criminal case.

Halloween

◀ page 13

sor the other three.

To promote the event, Duffy said Comcast has agreed to provide cable advertising, Viacom is providing billboard and bus shelter advertising and Clear Channel is willing to provide free time on its radio stations. After its success with partnering with this year's Pride celebration, KRON 4 has decided to team up with the city on Halloween.

According to Javier Valencia, the station's manager of community relations, the station is planning a "Halloween Around the Bay" special and would like to

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Up in the air

by Jim Provenzano

Why aren't gymnastics part of Gay Games?

This question arose again last November in Sydney. As the volleyball matches played in a facility at the Olympic Village, in one gym, over to the side, an array of gymnastics equipment sat unused amid piles of foam blocks and padded mats.

Perceptions of gymnastics are filled with misconceptions. Women's gymnastics has very few, if any, participants among current or former gymnasts who have come out as lesbians. Among men who have competed at the Olympic level, none have come out as gay.

The image of a gymnast is perhaps the height of aesthetic beauty: the symmetrical, muscular bodies flying gracefully through space.

Television's flag-waving family values features have regularly brushed aside speculation on the gorgeous tumblers' alternative private lives. Yet, it's more than obvious that gymnastics has many gay fans.

The International Gay & Lesbian Gymnastics Union has had some input into efforts towards gymnastics' inclusion, but it has not yet succeeded in getting a formal meet organized.

IGLGU members hope to attend the Federation of Gay Games annual meeting November 9-15 in Chicago, where they may lobby for a delegate slot and the consideration of the sport in the future.



Floored: A taut tumbler from Gymnasts/Athletes (Twin Palms Press).

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Pages

Receiving a copy of the beautiful photography book *Gymnasts/Athletes* by Jonathan Anderson and Edwin Low (Twin Palms Publishers), reminded me to explore this much-admired, but misunderstood sport.

Subtitled *Earth, Air, Fire, Water*, the dynamic photographic duo have posed a group of mostly male nude gymnasts in various formal iconic poses, from being caught midair with clouds as a backdrop, the other darker images of solemn formality.

Using rings, even rings of flame, and various group positions, the images recall the homoerotic tension of early Ted Shawn dance stills, or Leni Renfenthal poses, but with none of the horrid political agenda.

The toned legs, torsos, and arms create geometric beauty and simplicity while inspiring a classic physical perfection.

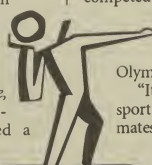
The companion book in the boxed duo set, *Athletes*, shows gymnasts clothed, in training, on the rings, and warming up. Track runners, wrestlers, women runners and powerlifters, swimmers, and boxers either gaze into the camera in formal up-close portraits or noble actions shots.

While the array of images recalls, at times, the style of Bruce Weber, it lacks the coy teasing eroticism of Weber's more widely marketed style. The athletes' bodies are shown respect, not exploitation.

Limited numbers of the books are available online through Twin Palms, at A Different Light Bookstore, and elsewhere.

Grounded

From interviews I'd done with former top-level gymnasts more than a year ago, but postponed for publication, there seems to be plenty of talent, and restrained enthusiasm, but little organization. Finding gay gymnasts was difficult, surprisingly, but led to



**Sports
Complex**

one former gymnast who is out, and another who chose to remain somewhat discreet.

Chris (not his real name) was a nationally ranked competitor who competed with "all the big boys in the sport," including the gymnasts on the last three American Olympic teams.

"It's very far from a gay sport," he said. "All my teammates in college were straight."

They have all married and have children now. I was the only gay one on my team."

Having attended one of the powerhouse schools for collegiate gymnastics several years ago, he said, "It's been 10 years now since I left the sport, but I have enough knowledge to tell you unequivocally that men's gymnastics is not a gay sport."

He mentioned only one Olympic gymnast that he knew was gay, and in "an arranged marriage."

"You will have a very hard time finding gay gymnasts," he said. "It's just a very macho sport. Most of the time, during warm-ups, they're out on the floor stretching and throwing footballs around the gym, something most people would never get to see."

Although he recalls the competition and training as tough, it was also memorable and fulfilling, but "as to gymnastics being a sport at the Gay Games? It will never happen."

"It's such a small sport in the upper ranks, that you'll never find people to come out and openly compete in a gay event. I know personally that I still look good, but trying to make my body do the things I used to do on a daily basis would be impossible. You may look in shape, but that's a far cry from still being able to perform. I'd have no problem competing in the Games as far as people knowing I was doing it, but I'm too old now."

While adult interest is marginal, age plays a factor.

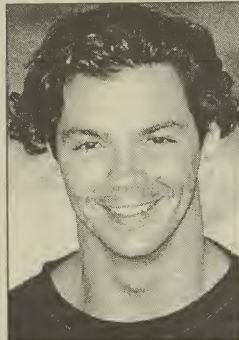
"The young one's that still can won't do it, and we 'old farts' can't do it anymore," he said. "I'd probably end up in traction at a local hospital if I tried to compete again!"

He's got rhythm

Jose Coquenao lives in New York City, and teaches children ages 5 months to 16 years old at his fitness center.

"Their parents and themselves see me as a role model," said Coquenao. "I do not hide my sexuality, but I do not go around and tell them that they should be gay. When I teach, I look at the kids and see what they have in their hearts. I allow them to be themselves with what makes them happy, through gymnastics."

Born and raised in Lisbon,



Jose Coquenao, one of the few out former gymnasts.

Portugal, Coquenao first started in acrobatics, then moved to trampolines, and later, was invited to join the Artistic Gymnastics team. As part of the team, he won a bronze medal in Germany. He also choreographed for the girls' artistic gymnastics team and rhythmic gymnastics team.

"My parents were very supportive," he said. "First, because it kept me focused and off the streets. Personally, as a gay man, it kept me out of trouble. I made a lot of friends. Every time we went to a competition or a sports exhibition, we met and made friends from all over the world."

"Gymnastics gave me a very strong sense of body awareness in space. I became in tune with my body and its needs, which gave me the opportunity to learn how to respect and listen to my body. This, and the combination that I had with the training in the different styles of gymnastics, gave me the ability to be very creative."

This helped Coquenao's transition to modern dance. He performed with Ballet Hispanico of New York, the Sarasota Ballet, and Maurice Bejart's company. He also danced with Silvie Guillem (former prima ballerina at the Paris Opera Ballet), Debbie Allen, Graciella Danielle, and many others.

Coquenao's other European experiences with combining "a sort of Cirque du Soleil" environment led him to consider initially bringing gymnastics in as an exhibition sport, where several sports events held similarly festive shows, even a rare performance of rhythmic gymnastics for a group of eight men.

Perhaps it may be a non-U.S. environment that one day finally brings gymnastics into a gay sports event. He maintains a more optimistic outlook on gymnastics participants being out on the pommel horse.

"There are a lot of ways to make it a group/team event," Coquenao said. "It all depends on how you write the rules and regulations for it. About having a representative, it's quite possible. It all depends on

next page ►

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Sports Complex

◀ previous page

time, marketing, and have a person with the right personality for it. Yes, I think it could happen."

The other concern is the cost of facilities and insurance. How does he think this might be handled?

"Why not share these facilities with different sports?" Coqueno asked. "For example, have an aerobics competition in the morning on a weekend and a gymnastics in the evening. It will require people to set up and break down the equipment from one sport to another."

"Every sport has a degree of risk," he said. "What makes them safe are the rules and regulations that must be followed. By presenting these rules, and showing it as a low level competition to the insurance companies, it will cut the cost."

"Regarding insurance, I would say that there is nothing like getting some good sponsors. I know that John Hancock Insurance had a great commercial geared to the gay community during the Olympics. Why not during the Gay Games?"

For more info, visit: www.geocities.com/iglu/index.html

Tanks a lot

Benefits and fundraisers abound recently in the GLBT sports community. The AIDS Walk raised millions, a portion of which went to local service organizations. Northern California Rainbow

Divers, in conjunction with Diving for Life, recently presented a check to Metropolitan Community Foundation for \$5,796.

Northern California Rainbow Divers is the area's scuba diving club for GLBT scuba divers. Diving for Life is a tax exempt, non-profit organization that sponsors the International Gay and Lesbian Scuba Jamboree. The jamboree is a fundraising event that offers a fun filled week of scuba diving with 120-150 or more GLBT divers attending.

All proceeds from the jamboree are donated to charitable organizations in each club's community. Among the clubs attending the 2002 Diving for Life Jamboree were dive groups from Toronto, London, Paris, Sydney, New York, Washington, Texas, and of course, San Francisco.

Dive clubs around the world are in the process of presenting checks to their local charities from the 2002 event. The membership of Northern California Rainbow Divers selected Metropolitan Community Foundation as its recipient, because of the work it does in caring for the community through meals, showers, and HIV support groups.

2003's Diving for Life will be held in September in Cozumel, Mexico. For more info, visit: www.rainbowdivers.org.

Dive into my previous articles at www.sportscomplex.org.

Milk Club

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nouncement, Milk Club President Robert Haaland told the B.A.R. that he doesn't believe IRV is dead.

"There's an Elections Commission meeting tonight," Haaland

said on Wednesday, "and last time I checked John Arntz isn't supposed to make decisions without talking to the Elections Commission."

"We think we have the votes on the commission to get IRV implemented," said Haaland. "And if we don't, we're suing on Friday." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0268869-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cole Valley Press, 769 Cole Street, #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Clinton T. Seiter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/01/03.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 255257

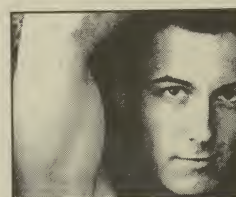
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Young's Alteration. Located at: 2192 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by an individual signed Stella Fan. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 19, 2002.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540869

In the Matter of the Application of Huong Thi Quynh Pham. For change of Name. The application of Huong Thi Quynh Pham for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Huong Thi Quynh Pham has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Celina Huong Thi Quynh Pham. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540867

In the Matter of the Application of Poya Lotfideh For change of Name. The application of Poya Lotfideh for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Poya Lotfideh has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Poya Adam Lotfi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540868

In the Matter of the Application of Jim Boe III/Jim Beaghs For change of Name. The application of Jim Boe III/Jim Beaghs for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jim Boe III/Jim Beaghs has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nick Scott-Zachetti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of October at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540871

In the Matter of the Application of Francisco Mendivil Lopez For change of Name. The application of Francisco Mendivil Lopez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Francisco Mendivil Lopez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Barbara Mendivil. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of October at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

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August 21, 2003 Energy Rules for San Francisco Buildings
Department of Building Inspection and Department of the Environment staff

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

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The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households. Childhood lead poisoning is an illness that continues to rob our children of a bright future. Lead poisoning interferes with a child's ability to learn, develop and grow; and it may create behavioral problems. Children in San Francisco continue to become lead poisoned from several sources. These include dust and soil contaminated with lead-based paint and peeling or cracked lead-based paint that children breathe or ingest. This program will be available only for a short time. For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Tulle at: (415) 252-3102.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

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The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415) 554-6390.

PUBLIC HEARING

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCO) is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 15, 2003, in the Legislative Chambers, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the R. W. Beck Final Report on Community Aggregation (AB117) Midget.

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San Francisco Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being abused or neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

STATEMENT FILE 0267983-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pick-A-Movie Delivery Service. 1760 Pacific Avenue #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darryl B. Gregory. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/26/2003.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0239873-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Bayareagaytours.com. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 07, 2000.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268242-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sales Solutions. 4096 17th Street, #204, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Amendola. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 8, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/8/2003.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0262911-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Willows Inn. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: December 10, 2002.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

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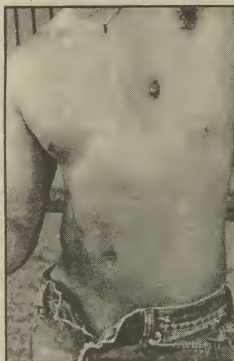
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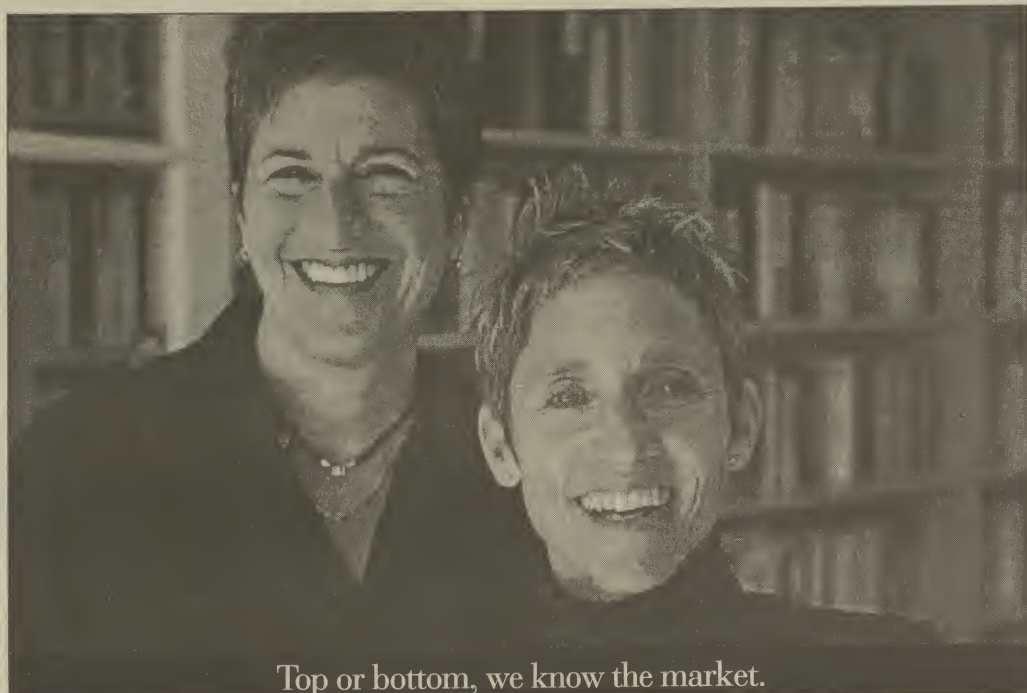
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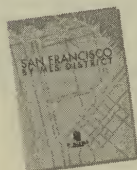
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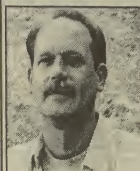
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540824 In the Matter of the Application of Nancy Ann Shore For change of Name. The application of Nancy Ann Shore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nancy Ann Shore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nancy Ann Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268530-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Canyon Promotional Products. 706 6th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Adriann Sue Debits. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/21/03. JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268416-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Pepe Studio. 3285 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose Huizar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 16, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/16/03. JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268400-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Canyon Promotional Products. 706 6th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Adriann Sue Debits. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/03. JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Five 50 Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 550 15th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for: 48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC-03-540825 In the Matter of the Application of Angela Jane Dillon For change of Name. The application of Angela Jane Dillon for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Angela Jane Dillon has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Angela Jane Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 02035413-00 The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Advanced Autozone. Located at: 5635 Mission Street. This business was conducted by a General Partnership signed Jeffrey Kwan and Sammy Soolto. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 08, 1999. JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. CO. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER: CGC-03-417346 NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEM, INC. DAVID SHANE YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAIN-TIFF: DAVID LABUA You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a type-written response to this court. A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book). The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of the State of California City and County of San Francisco 400 McAllister Street, First Floor San Francisco, Ca. 94102 The name, address, of plaintiff's attorney, is: Lawrence M. Einhorn Law Office of Lawrence M. Einhorn 6114 Lasalle Avenue #416 Oakland, Ca. 94611 JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268792-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Urban Soul Salon. 630 Chenery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Dong Xu Fan and Chu, Yin Kwong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/30/03. AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268863-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Eight Thirty Seven. 837 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jimmy Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/30/03. AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268933-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Young's Alteration. 2192 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sun Cha Kwon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/05/03. AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268519-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: B & B Market. 1600 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Zhi Yong Zhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/21/03. JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268637-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuts-N-Bolts Graphics. 195 Eureka Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dale K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03. JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268632-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Advanced Auto Service. 5635 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jeffrey Kwan- president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03. JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

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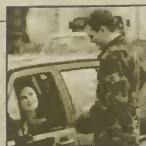


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How we got to where we are today
'Wide Open Town: A History of Queer
San Francisco to 1965' charts our gay city.
page 35

'Buffalo' shuffler
Joaquin Phoenix plays
military clerk & operator.
page 28



Casting couch follies
'Gay Hollywood' is the
latest Reality-TV show.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 32 • 7 August 2003

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT

SUMMER 'CAMP' FOR INCIPIENT SHOW-QUEENS

by Robert Julian

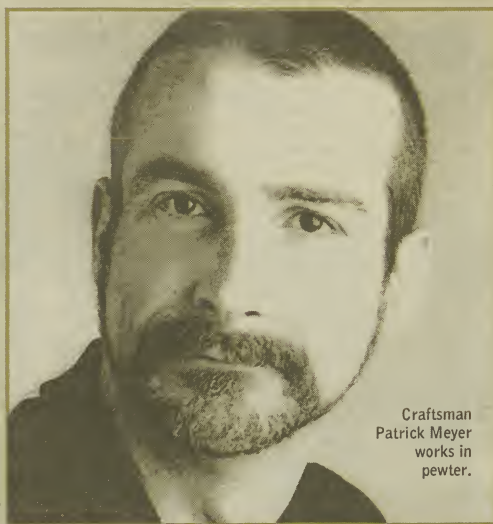
According to an alcoholic Broadway has-been who washed ashore at Camp Ovation, his charges are "a bunch of little freaks." And for most of heterosexual America, the geeks, fairies, fag hags, spicks, and homies spending the summer at a performing arts camp are society's discards. But *Camp's* writer/director, Todd Graff, cheerfully takes the outsider's point of view from the start. As a busload of teens heads campward, one older boy proudly introduces himself to his younger seatmate as the camp's sports director. The younger boy looks up at him and questions, "Sports director?" as if it this were the most ridiculous, superfluous, and incredibly stupid job imaginable.

Turning the tables on traditional values, *Camp*, opening Friday, revisits the territory of *Fame* with mixed results. Michael (Robin De Jesus) arrives shortly after taking a beating for arriving at his prom in drag. Ellen (Joanna Chilcoat) couldn't even get a date for her prom. And Jenna (Tiffany Taylor) was supposed to go to fat camp, but her

page 29 ►



Vlad (Daniel Letterle), Michael (Robin De Jesus) and Ellen (Joanna Chilcoat) in *Camp*.



Craftsman Patrick Meyer works in pewter.

HEARTS AND CRAFTS

GAY DESIGNERS AT AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL SAN FRANCISCO SHOW

by Kevin Davis

If craft is ever to elude its marginalized reputation as quaint, dust-sucking *chotchkas* meant to be contemplated from afar, then craftspeople and consumers must unite to make practicality a priority. Patrick Meyer, a local gay designer of versatile pewter accessories for kitchen, bath and office, serves as an ideal role model in this endeavor to make habitation more aesthetic and aesthetics more practical. Meyer exhibits his creations along with 300 other craftspeople, half Californian, at the 28th annual American Craft Council (ACC) San Francisco Show, the largest West Coast peer-juried craft show, August 8-10 at Fort Mason. ACC, which values making as a way of unifying body, mind and spirit, has provided a vital base for the emergence of the craft movement in the US since WWII.

Meyer makes both industrial/primitive and ro-

mantic contemporary implements and furnishings. His ice-cream scoops, butter knives, bottle-openers, and cabinet knobs are anchored with his signature winsome and gay, organic, abstract spirals; flirty, capricious hearts; or whimsical, primordial escargot.

He works in "lost wax" technique: sculpting in silicon, plastering, melting the silicon, and finally casting the lead-free, premium sterling-silver pewter. Versatile, tin-based pewter, an alloy tracing its use back 4,000 years to the Bronze Age, can be cast, cut, formed, fused and spun. Pewter ages well because handling gives it a distinctive patina. "It's tactile and made for touching," Meyer says.

"Craft is more socialized than the fine arts," writes Paul J. Smith in *Craft Today: Poetry of the*

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Re: Who's naughty, who's nice

Out There bites tongue, tries to be pleasant, but occasionally fails

by Roberto Friedman

Civilians are always surprised, should they meet Out There in person out in the field, that we're not nearly as bitchy or catty as they'd feared from reading us in the weekly fish-wrap. Remember, we invariably tell them, it's the style of the column to be smart-assing all the time, not our own personal credo. We'd no sooner mess with the column style than we'd tamper with the sordid starter. One day, perhaps, we'll turn in "The Nice Column." But that day has not yet come.

Which reminds us, have we had great fun yet over La Stone's sobering and precipitous decline into network TV? Appearing on *The Practice*, no less! No wonder *El Macho* dumped her. The word from the *Comical* is that he is parading her replacement around the office like the complete anatomical part he is. The arm-candy, for the record, is a redhead.

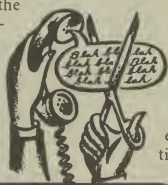
Fortunately for us, major media outlets have no intention of suddenly breaking out in a case of the Nices. Last week's "Page

Six" column of the NY *Post* revealed that "Advocate editor-in-chief Judy Wieder is furious over a few nasty lines about her in [SF author] Michael Thomas Ford's novel *Last Summer*. [In the book,] an up-and-coming gay Hollywood heartthrob makes fun of the magazine and attacks Wieder's interviewing style.

"Spies say that Wieder, who didn't return calls, has been on the phone trying to stop its distribution. The tipster says she's also subjected her employees to days of tirades over it. One staffer says, 'We're all very tired of seeing how Judy treats people, writers in particular. This is not the first time she's done something like this, and there are a number of writers who have been blacklisted from writing for the magazine after allegedly slighting her.'"

Queer old opry

Now, compared to a naughty editrix like that, we're *Mr. Nice Guys*. Still, we don't know what nice thing to say about a national call-out for gay cowboys we received through the grapevine. Today, Aug. 7, in New York City,



Out There



Julie Newmar, left, in 'nice' Catwoman mode, and DC Comics' updated version of 'naughty' Catwoman

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Arts

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two high-profile music-industry types are holding auditions for one gay guy to become a *Frankenstein* of their own creation they like to call "America's first gay country-music superstar."

The two big wheels are Grammy-nominated producer/songwriter *Larry Dvoskin*, known for his work with *Meredith Brooks*, *Sammy Hagar*, and *Bad Company*; and *Jeff Margolis*, who has directed or produced the Academy and Emmy Awards and the current TV series *Fame*. Their Reality-TV project aims to follow the journey toward possible stardom by contestants who want to

be named (let's hear it again) "America's first openly gay country-music superstar."

Contestants are being asked to show up with only two qualifications: 1) They are openly gay males [can they prove it?], and 2) They sing country music. Dvoskin and Margolis are set to choose 50 finalists this afternoon at 3 p.m. at SIR Studios, 312 West 52nd St. in NYC. Good luck to everyone involved is all we can possibly say.

Pussy whipped

All this straining to be nice is really taking its toll, so we'll try to compensate here with a heartfelt tribute to a naughty, not nice girl. We mean the subject of the spiffy new coffee-table book *Catwoman: The Life and Times of a Feline Fatale* by *Suzan Colon* (Chronicle). The story of *Batman's* archvillain on comic-book page and screen comes with an introduction by *Adam West*, who of course played the Bat on the campy '60s TV series. West reminisces about the three legends who played the purring peril: *Julie Newmar* ("evil heart of a killer"); *Lee Meriweather* ("steamy"); and *Eartha Kitt* ("She could lie on a grand piano, stretch and purr, and even *Robin* could be seduced.") We think this is a fundamental misreading of the sexual orientation of *Robin*, but never mind.

The book promises to divulge the secrets of the C-woman's all-leather wardrobe; offers a few lessons in how to crack a whip and mean it; and dispenses felonious feline lore with a saucer of warm milk. Call it nice and naughty.

Chamber made

You'll notice we did not write anything snide or snotty when actor *Richard Chamberlain* miraculously came out, after 40 years on television and 69 years in the closet, earlier this summer on NBC's *Dateline*. That's only because everyone in the hospital, as

well as the entire viewing audience at home, already knew that *Dr. Kildare* was as gay gay as a purple parakeet on diet pills.

To peddle his memoir *Shattered Love* (ReganBooks), Chamberlain, who also played love-torn priest *Father Ralph* in the 1983 miniseries *The Thorn Birds*, served it up for the national media. "When I grew up, being gay, being a sissy, or anything like that, was *verboten*," said Chamberlain, who lives in Hawaii but keeps up his German. "I disliked myself intensely and feared this part of myself intensely, and had to hide it."

But Dick can see queerly now, so God save the Queen. If we can't say anything nice about this entire turn of events, we should just end the item now.

Turf club

The bartender at our favorite Castro bistro was snarking about jockeys after having gone to see cute and tiny *Tobey Maguire* play one in the horsey movie *Seabiscuit*. "Did you know that jockeys are all anorexic? They binge and purge, just like super-

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Tiny Tobey Maguire in *Seabiscuit*

THEATRE

Getting the adrenalin going

Falcon star Matthew Rush takes the stage

by Richard Dodds

Porn star Matthew Rush occasionally ponders the road he didn't take. "I always wanted to be a clown," said Rush, who is now a "Falcon Lifetime Exclusive" performer in gay videos. As a teen, he even auditioned for the Ringling Brothers clown college. "I begged my parents to drive me to the auditions, and my dad was totally against it, but they took me and I got accepted."

But a job traveling with the circus would have meant giving up on the weight-training that had transformed the skinny high school student into an incredible hunk. "I kind of had low self-esteem," Rush said, "and it was a way of kind of bringing myself up." He turned his back on jestering to develop the body that would eventually catch the eye of porn producers.

"It was a tough choice to make, but I think I made the right decision," Rush said, even though he described the actual process of making adult videos as "hideous." But there are compensations, lately including the chance to appear, and take off his clothes, in the legitimate theater.

Rush, 30, is the star of *Making Porn*, Ronnie Larsen's early comedy, opening a short run this week at Theatre Rhino. This will be his third time playing Jack, a straight actor down on his luck who turns to gay porn to help pay the bills. (Reviewers are being asked not to attend the production.)

"It took me a while to get the feel of the character, but now it's like second nature," Rush said by phone. "Now it's a lot of fun just getting out there on stage and getting the adrenalin going."

Surprisingly, the stage nudity has given Rush a moment or two of pause. "Being naked when you're shooting a movie is one thing," he said, "but being naked on stage in front of live people, it's totally different. It's a little nerve-racking being comfortable in

front of all those people."

Rush lives in Columbus, Ohio, and works at a gym there as a personal trainer when he's not traveling for his other work. "All my clients know what I do," he said. When he's on the road he gets to the gym four times a week to maintain his ultra-muscular look.

"But it's like a double-edged sword," he said. "It did attract the guys, but then it became all about the physical and not really that person who I am."

That he is also well-endowed has helped his video career, of course, but he said he didn't know he was big.

"When I would see the other guys in high school I thought they were bigger than me. I never saw their dicks when they were hard. But then when I became sexually active with other guys..."

Another double-edged sword? "No, not really," he replied. "I think a lot of people like the physical thing, which they see first."

Rush prefers dating men who aren't in the porn industry. "It seems like there's more jealousy with those in the industry," he said. "I try to express to everyone that I've gone out with that what I do is strictly a job. I don't even really consider it sex because it's so technical."

And he doesn't do escort. "If I'm going to have sex with somebody, even though I do make two or three films a year, I want to share that intimacy with someone special. I understand that what an escort does is work, but it's just that they do it all the time, and I couldn't do that."

Matthew Rush, not surprisingly, is a *nom de porn*. Most of the time he goes by his given name, Greg, whom he thinks of as "just your normal everyday guy who happens to do adult movies."

"Greg and Matthew are totally night and day. Matthew does a lot of things Greg wouldn't do. Matthew is very out there. It's like turning on a little light-switch. It's kind of fun in a weird, demented sort of way."

For ticket info on *Making*

Porn, call 861-5079.

Hearing the word

Word for Word productions often wind up in end-of-year stories as among the year's best. That's been going on for a decade now, earning *The Fall River Axe Murders* its billing as the official 10th anniversary show. Angela Carter's short story explores Lizzie Borden's life in the days leading up to her notoriety as a murderer.

Carter's sharply observed accounts of what it was like to be a woman in many different scenarios was cut short when she died of cancer in 1992 at age 51. Her better-known works include *The Bloody Chamber* and *Black Venus*.

Word for Word's approach is to perform short stories with no changes to the author's language. Playwright Amy Freed (*The Beard of Avon*) is directing the current project, which features the company's entire charter group of performers.

Performances begin this week at the Magic Theatre in Fort Mason Center. Call 437-6775 for more information.

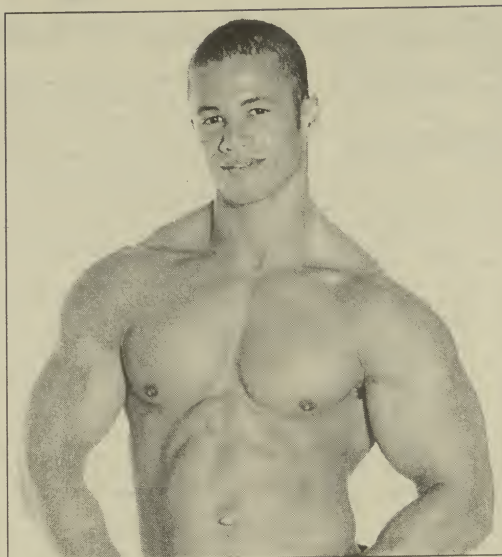
Short scenes

• *Jesus Christ Superstar* has replaced the canceled *Flower Drum Song* on the Best of Broadway's new season. The graying rock opera will open Sept. 23 at the Orpheum Theatre.

• Gregarious gay talk-show host Graham Norton, seen in this country on BBC America, is bringing his one-man stage show to San Francisco. *Graham Norton: Red-Handed* will run Sept. 16-20 at the Alcazar Theatre.

• TheatreWorks in Palo Alto is flying high with *Bat Boy*. The off-Broadway musical is turning out to be so popular that not only is the production being held over through Aug. 16, but it will be transferring to the Marines Memorial Theatre in San Francisco on Aug. 22. The transfer is a first for the Peninsula theater. Call (650) 903-6000. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



'It's like a double-edged sword,' Rush says about his... muscular look.

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You're in the Army now

GI Joes on the make in 'Buffalo Soldiers'

by David Lamble

War is Hell, but peace is a fucking bore!"

I'm 16 years old, buck naked, lying in the bathtub of my family's tenement apartment reading Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*. As a pasty white ectomorph, I think gym class is Hell, while, according to Heller, war seems pretty funny.

Heller's antihero, Yossarian, is a World War II US Air Force pilot who suddenly decides to stop flying bombing missions from a base in Italy, in the belief that everybody is out to kill him. Yossarian is an Americanized version of Camus' existential hero, a sane man in an insane world. In contrast to the purity of Yossarian's survival instinct, Heller provides a rogue's gallery of self-absorbed characters highlighted by the unit's supply officer Lieutenant Milo Minderbinder. Milo, who will do anything for a buck, accepts a contract to bomb his own troops, using American planes. Mike Nichols' attempt to film *Catch-22* failed miserably because he forgot it was a comedy.

Australian-born director Gregor Jordan understood his mission, and in his hands, *Buffalo Soldiers* (based on the novel by Robert O'Connor) becomes a *Catch-22*-like dark comedy about American GIs in Germany just before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The one switch is that instead of

an idealistic, Yossarian-like hero, Jordan makes us view his world through the eyes of a Milo-like wheeler-dealer, military clerk Ray Elwood (Joaquin Phoenix, redeeming the promise he displayed as a trailer-trash teen killer in Gus Van Sant's *To Die For*).

It's Elwood's mission in life to convince his commanding officer, the glib Colonel Wallace Berman (played astutely against type by Ed Harris), to give him a blank check to buy suspiciously large quantities of Mop 'n' Glo, which Elwood then uses as chips to trade for less wholesome products: drugs, guns, and sex. "Three things I love about Germany: My Mercedes, no speed limit on the Autobahn, and a black market for anything I can get my hands on."

Phoenix surprises by slipping into a lower gear to play a smart-alecky American who can sweet-talk anybody out of anything. Imagine a younger Tom Hanks doing Sgt. Ernie Bilko. Now, you don't expect Bilko to get the girl, but the world of *Buffalo Soldiers* is a completely upside-down moral universe.

Draft dodge

The tone of the comedy and the depth of the film's cynicism towards military valor are displayed early on, when Elwood reads a letter of condolence he's drafted for Colonel Wallace to send to the parents of a soldier who is supposed to have died in a war-related incident, and who we know was

killed in a bizarre accident involving indoor touch-football.

Colonel Wallace is perfectly willing to lie about the death, but a detail in Elwood's letter bothers him. "I don't think 'resplendent' is a good word to describe a soldier. Don't let that word leave this base."

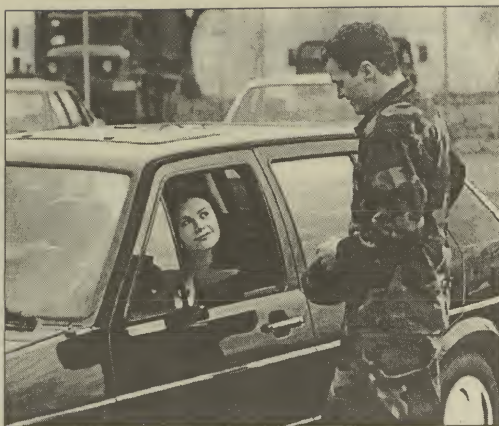
A whole lot does escape the base, including a truckload of heavy artillery and a runaway tank, in an incident that may seem far-fetched, but which director Jordan insists really happened, only with more lethal results.

Since the film's title derives from a derogatory term used to describe members of a Civil War-era cavalry unit made up of ex-slaves, it's appropriate that the film contains some sharp observations of racial relations in the peacetime military. Particularly notable is a scene where a black soldier attired in a Confederate uniform serves guests at an officer's club party.

The violence between soldiers in the film escalates, sometimes along racial lines. At one point, a skinny white soldier is viciously assaulted in what appears suspiciously like a gay-bashing, but which is actually a red herring for an even more disturbing plot twist.

Falling somewhere between *Dr. Strangelove* and *M*A*S*H*, *Buffalo Soldiers* is an entertaining way to skip the evening news. ▼

Opens Friday.



Anna Paquin, Joaquin Phoenix in Gregor Jordan's *Buffalo Soldiers*

Not just the usual suspects

'Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets' at the Roxie

by David Lamble

The place is Casablanca, Morocco, the time is now. A group of young street kids (or *chemkaras*, after their habit of sniffing glue) are being interviewed by a local TV reporter. Ali Zaoua (the soulfully defiant Abdelhak Zhayra) is feeling bold, surrounded by his friends Kouka, Omar and Boubker. Ali tells the TV woman about his dream to become a sailor, to trade his fetid slum for a beautiful island, adding that his life was ruined by his whore of mother's plans to sell his eyes.

In the very next scene, the quartet is confronted by a gang of prepubescent ruffians led by a Fagin-like mute, Dib (Saïd Taghmaoui, from David O. Russell's underappreciated Gulf War drama, *Three Kings*). In the time it takes to utter his name, Ali is felled by a rock. Stunned by the death of their pal, Kouka, Omar and Boubker realize how much they had been living in the shadow of Ali's dream. The boys rashly promise each other that they will give Ali a funeral fit for a prince, Kouka declaring, "He may have lived like a little shit, but he's not going to be buried like one."

The quality of police services in Casablanca having not significantly improved in the 60 years since Hollywood Captain Re-

nault's order to "round up the usual suspects," the boys decide not to report the murder of Ali, but instead, to ritually wash his body and hide it in a secret cave down by the docks.

Here filmmaker Nabil Ayouch (with co-writer Nathalie Saugeon) reveals his plan for *Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets*. The film, a hypnotic mix of magic realism and urban poetry, is a character study of Ali's chums, Kouka (Mounim Kbab, the only one of the young, non-professional actors whose body has not been scarred by real slum life) is a sober-headed realist. Guided by Ali's most precious possession, a compass given him by a sailor, Kouka raises the money for a burial costume and to have the Koran read at Ali's burial.

Omar (Mustapha Hansali has the seething, chaotic energy of a 10-year-old Sean Penn) is torn between loyalty to his slain buddy and his addiction to the drug-dealing gang world where Dib rules. Boubker (the joyful Hicham Moussoune) is the tag-along pest, the sort of pint-sized misfit shoved into a trash can in *The Bad News Bears*. He's an almost feminine boy who must be protected from anal rape by Kouka and Omar, and whose overtures to sleep with them are perceived as a tad faggot-like by the older boys, especially the prickly Omar. The film's only serious shortcoming is

page 33 ►

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Street kids survive a new day in Casablanca in Nabil Ayouch's *Ali Zaoua*...

FILM

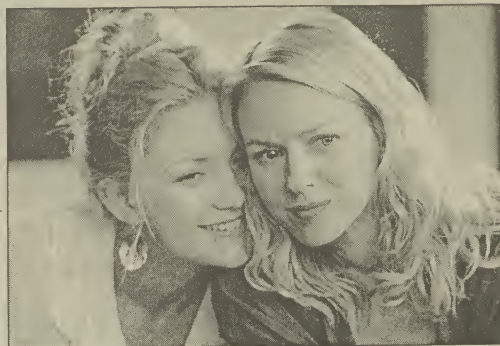
Divorce, Merchant-Ivory style

Diane Johnson's novel takes a beating on the screen

by Robert Julian

Author Diane Johnson, who divides her time equally between San Francisco and Paris, hit the big time in 1997 with the publication of *Le Divorce*, a sublime comedy of manners that centers around two young American women in Paris and their French in-laws. When Ruth Praver Jhabvala and James Ivory agreed to write the screenplay, with Ivory directing and Ismail Merchant producing, devoted readers had reason to hope for a smooth transition from the page to the screen. Those same readers must now lower their expectations. *Le Divorce*, the movie, is a leaden, charmless affair that wastes a talented cast and betrays the novel. The blame for this dreadful miscalculation rests squarely upon the shoulders of the writing/directing team of Jhabvala and Ivory.

Isabel (Kate Hudson) arrives in Paris to visit her pregnant sister Roxeane (Naomi Watts), just as Roxeane's husband Charles (Melvil Poupaud) abandons her for another woman. A divorce is set in motion amid the protestations of the wronged Roxeane and under the arcane tradition of French law. Isabel, who stays in Paris to comfort her sister, ends up having an affair with Roxeane's uncle, a married French diplomat (Thierry Lhermitte), and she takes a job arranging the papers of American ex-pat author Olivia Pace (Glenn Close, looking like one of the witches from *Macbeth*). Roxeane enters into a division of



Isabel (Kate Hudson) visits her sister Roxeane (Naomi Watts) in Paris.

assets with her soon-to-be ex-husband; the sisters' parents (Stockard Channing and Sam Waterston) come to visit and negotiate the retrieval of a painting; and the sisters are stalked by Matthew Modine, who portrays the jilted husband of Charles' paramour.

As anyone can tell from this scenario, the territory covered here is only a few slammed doors away from Feydeau—or Feydeau blown through Joe Orton. But Jhabvala and Ivory translate Diane Johnson's shrewd story as if they were adapting Edith Wharton. The film has a labored, lugubrious pace, made even more ponderous by Richard Robbins' background score. The acting isn't bad, it's just wrong. No one seems to be having any fun, with the possible exception of Thierry Lhermitte's delightfully lecherous lothario. And fun is the primary ingredient that made *Le Divorce*,

the novel, soar.

To their credit, Jhabvala and Ivory retain the bilingual dialogue which was the source of much humor in the novel. And they appropriately convey the vague sense of danger in a foreign land which gives the story its edge. But the travails of the two American girls up against the French establishment are skewed heavily toward the melodramatic and away from the comic.

Cinematographer Pierre Lhomme photographs Paris splendidly, but that is hardly a difficult task. Lhomme's camera delivers some wonderful portraits of quintessential French cuisine and fashion that define the *haute monde* the American sisters must

master. But the most problematic element of the novel, the ending, has been expanded and amplified in an effort that might best be compared to gilding a dead lily. The final moments of *Le Divorce* are a blatant rip-off of Alan Ball's *American Beauty*. But instead of that billowing plastic bag, *Le Divorce* allows the wind to carry a red Hermes handbag, containing a pistol, over the roofs of Paris. Say what? This sequence could only work as a *Saturday Night Live* parody. To add insult to injury, the lovely Leslie Caron plays the frivolous mother of Roxeane's philandering husband like a French prison matron, turned out in *haute couture*. I don't know who had final cut on this picture, but it really doesn't matter; the Merchant/Ivory *Le Divorce* is simply not fixable. *Quelle dommage.* ▼

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Camp

◀ Arts cover

parents compromised, allowing her to attend Camp Ovation only after having her mouth wired shut.

The one perfectly gorgeous, red-blooded hetero boy, Vlad (Daniel Letterle), appears to be a non sequitur at the camp until he exposes his own underlying neuroses. The camp's guest director, Bert (Don Dixon), wrote one hit Broadway musical, but now drinks himself into oblivion every day, wallowing in self-pity. In his capacity as musical director, Bert and his coterie of musicians and directors make the kids mount new productions of musicals like *Follies* and *Dreamgirls* every two weeks. The end-of-summer benefit is performed for an audience that includes Stephen Sondheim, who makes a cameo appearance in *Camp*.

Allegiances, rivalries, and romances all develop in a rather predictable fashion. It doesn't take much prescience to figure out that the kids' naive optimism will ultimately save Bert from his self-destructive tendencies. Graff's script provides wonderful moments, but the first hour of the film plods along with too many characters introduced who are quickly dropped or reduced to window-dressing. By the time the film decides to focus on Vlad, Ellen, and Michael, the audience has gone down more than a few blind alleys.

Streep throat

The adolescent performers are true to their characters' intentions

and thoroughly believable. Joanna Chilcoat's Ellen recalls the young Meryl Streep. And Daniel Letterle is perfectly cast as the film's centerpiece. His Vlad is catnip for both boys and girls: one of those attractive, charismatic teenagers who can grab anyone's attention by simply walking into a room.

Tim Weil provides nice arrangements of some classic Broadway tunes. An extremely funny "Here's to the Ladies Who Lunch" provides the set-up for a great Eve Harrington moment. And Weil turns Todd Rundgren's "The Want of a Nail" into a delightful production number for the film's finale. But the quality of the film's musical numbers never reaches the level of *Camp*'s famous progenitor, *Fame*. It is unlikely *Camp* will cross over to an adult audience, or that adults will buy and listen to the soundtrack.

The film's musical mediocrity and a script that's heavily weighted in favor of a 12- to 17-year-old audience will limit the success of *Camp*. But I can't imagine a better film for young gay, lesbian, or questioning youth. (And in the 12-to-17 age group, what child isn't questioning?) Open-minded and open-hearted, *Camp* is consistently politically correct without being heavy-handed. The film carries a message of tolerance, diversity, and acceptance that should be welcomed by any parent who encourages their child to live an examined life. *Camp* is not only a film parents can take their children to see, it's a film they should take them to see. ▼

Camp starts Friday.

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Boys on the side

by Jim Nawrocki

The Secret Lives of Married Men
by David Leddick; Alyson, \$15.95

In the recent film *Far from Heaven*, Dennis Quaid portrays a 1950s-era husband and father who is tormented by a secret: he's gay. The film does an admirable job of showing how societal expectations of the period pushed some men into the roles of husband, father, and provider. Men like these, and others, are the subject of David Leddick's new book, *The Secret Lives of Married Men*. In his introduction, Leddick states that the phenomenon of gay or bisexual men who marry women is "little understood or recognized in the gay community" (a point that certainly seems debatable), and he offers his new book as an attempt to illuminate this lifestyle.

Though Leddick readily admits that the book is not a scientifically rigorous sociological study, he nevertheless operates with a defined methodology: he attempts to balance his pool of interview subjects

by age, economic standing, and geography (he includes men from the US and around the world). He acknowledges, though, that the book falls short of being ideally representative because of difficulty in finding interview subjects from some demographic groups. He notes that there is only one African American subject in the book, and that subjects in the age range of 30 and younger were in short supply.

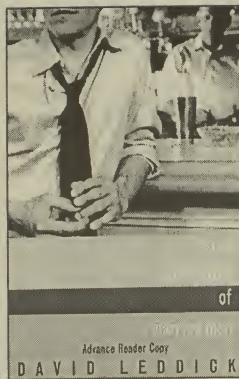
Leddick's analysis of his material is restrained. He provides a title and a brief preface for each age group: "The Hidden Generation," 60 and Up; "The Confused Generation," 50 to 60; "The Out and About Generation," 40 to 50; and "The Guilt-Free Generation," 30 to 40. He also includes a section of conclusions. For the most part, though, he concentrates on his subjects and their individual stories. In his general introduction, Leddick writes that he'd expected to see patterns emerge from the case histories he gathered, but he admits that such "broad generalities" were simply not possible. The only real generalizations he provides are in identifying the pre-

vailing Zeitgeist of each age group, but within these groups he finds a wide array of life experiences.

The book includes success stories and inspirational examples, as well as heartbreaking tales of thwarted lives and unrealized dreams. In "The Hidden Generation," the author describes the men who felt the most pressure to subvert their true sexuality in order to claim their place in society. Many of these men remained close to their wives even after their formerly secret lives were revealed. But Leddick doesn't focus

exclusively on the husband-and-wife relationship. In one case, he describes the life of a gay son who grew up with a gay father.

By presenting these real-life stories and arranging them chronologically, Leddick provides a full portrait of the sexual freedom that emerged, albeit gradually and in different ways all over the world, over the last 50-60 years. Casting a hopeful eye to the future, he concludes that alternative family situations will give gay men and lesbians increasing opportunity to redefine the nature of the family. ▼



Perpetual Boystown

by David Lamble

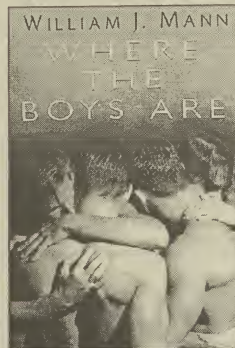
Where the Boys Are by William J. Mann; Kensington Books, \$24

An old friend once confided to me in one of those emotionally naked moments

that one is always embarrassed about after the fact, "Whatever you do in life, they'll be some point at which you'll dearly wish you'd done something else." This little bit of hometown wisdom kept nagging at me throughout the long night it took me to finish *Where the Boys Are*, the ambitious

new novel from William J. Mann.

If the title sounds a tad familiar, it's because the book is a sequel to Mann's earlier saga about the tribulations of one Jeff O'Brien, a 30-something freelance writer who tries to live up to the sometimes elusive promise of one of our newest cultural myths: that the family of friends you choose for yourself can wholly replace and in fact transcend the horribly flawed biological tribe you were born into.



In the first book, *The Men from the Boys*, Jeff's gay family is alive and kicking, or so he thinks. At the heart of that family lies Jeff's decade-old relationship with the crusty old activist Javitz, a character who clearly owes more than a little of his existence to a very idealized fictional cloning of what Mann imagines to be the best traits of the very irascible Larry Kramer. Javitz was Jeff's first lover and, more importantly, his first real mentor and spiritual guide to the merry-go-round that is fast-lane gay life on the party circuit from Boston to Provincetown.

Lloyd Griffith is Jeff's lover of six years. The first book tracks Jeff's desperate attempts to juggle his relationships with Javitz; Lloyd, a summer boyfriend; and a neurotic feline named Mr. Thompkins. Jeff receives a severe jolt when Lloyd declares simply, "Jeff, there's no more passion."

Where the Boys Are kicks off on New Year's Eve 1999, on a huge New York City dance floor, where the now-36-year-old Jeff is furiously bumping with his best friend, Henry.

"Across the dance floor, some guy's squirting Windex in his mouth. Henry [shakes] his head. 'The things some people will do for a fucking high. I mean, Windex—'

"Henry, I place my palms against his sweaty chest and press my face close to his. Eyes to eyes, nose to nose. 'No talking on the dance floor.'"

page 32 ►

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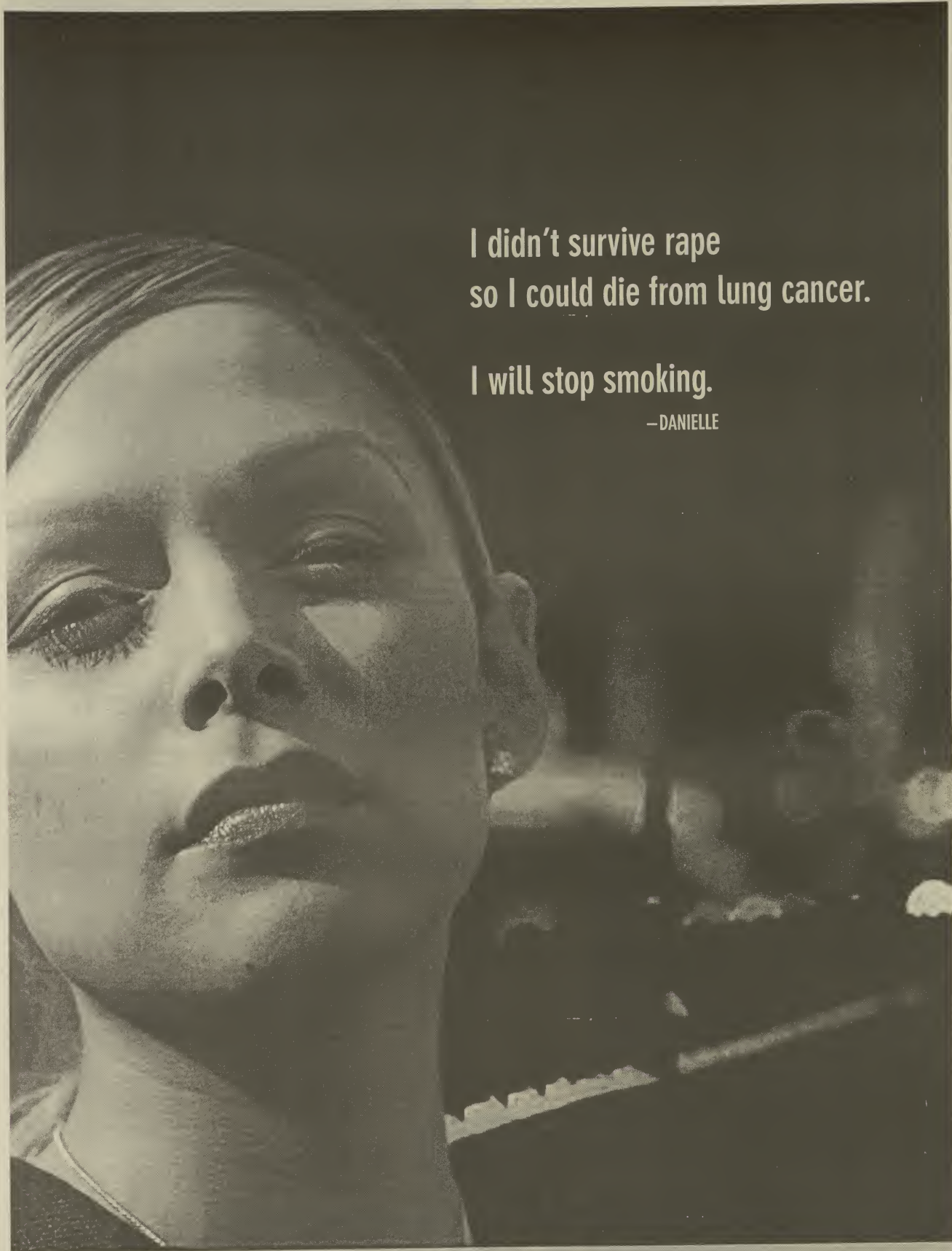
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—DANIELLE

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Hearts & crafts

◀ Arts cover

Physical (1986). "It's not just an individual asserting individuality through his work. The craftsman exists in a community."

It is a sustaining, receptive community by all accounts. "People are not judgmental about who you are," says Meyer. "I'm recognized as a gay artist."

"The American Craft Council has supported gay artists for 60 years," says ACC Executive Director Carmine Branagan. "I'm really grateful to be working in an industry with that sensibility."

Ancient forms

Tattooed, bearded Meyer, 39, distributes his pieces from his bright, airy, four-story, 8th & Howard St. showplace loft he shares with his Abyssinian domestic feline companion, Napoleon.

Meyer grew up with his child psychologist mom and accountant dad in Metz, France, capital of Alsace Lorraine and birthplace of Gregorian chant. He attended archaeology workshops, observing fossils and classic symbols. "My designs express my love of ancient civilizations," he says. "As a child, I could escape from everyday life into images."

His sculptured utensils convey classic ideas from a diverse panoply of cultures and eras. His

primitive human figures, reproduced on flatware, stemware and candlesticks, derive from 8th-century BC Etruscan bronzes and communicate faint echoes of Greek *kouros* statuary as well.

After high school, Meyer studied metalsmithing and interior design at Paris' Ecole des Beaux-arts, then networked, finding his way onto elite rag-trade Rolodexes. He designed jewelry for fellow Ecole alumnus and *bijouterie* inventor Paco Rabanne, milliner Guy Laroche, cobbler Charles Jourdan, and preeminent Japanese couturier Hanae Mori, as well as his own line. He developed a high degree of marketing skills along the way.

"The fashion industry opened doors for me," he says. "It taught me about business. I learned by experience. No-one asks for a diploma in this business."

Moving to SF in '93, he found a saturated, cut-throat market in ladies' trinkets, and besides, "Women don't dress," he says. "But people do stay home and entertain."

Meyer stipulates that he favors the label designer, not artist. "When it's pragmatic, commercial and I make a living at it, I'm a designer," he says. "I see what people want and adapt to the market. I want it bought. It's not only to please myself. I could be a starving artist if I wanted to. But I don't want to."

"There's a big push to recog-

nize people working in craft media as artists, and to refer to their work as art, by people in all industry roles," says Curator of Crafts and Decorative Arts Suzanne Baizerman of the Oakland Museum of California. Pressure comes from artists to command higher prices, and from collectors and gallery dealers for whom the work will have more value as art.

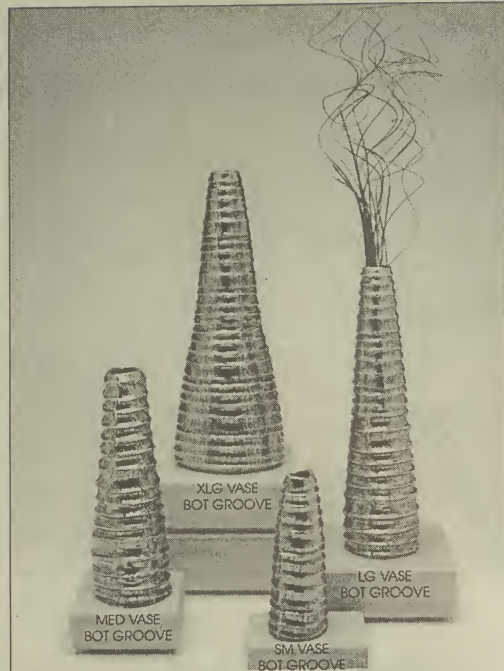
"The severance of craft from art is a circumstance of industrialized society. It induced the idea that there is a mental condition called 'creativity,' separate from knowledge of making things, leading to art without craft," says Baizerman. Craft has struggled in relation to fine art ever since the ascendancy of the individual artist above anonymous craftsmen during the Renaissance.

Baizerman, who made wall hangings and pillows "before craft was tickling the edge of art," leads a walking tour and awards presentation at the ACC show on Friday, August 8, at 3 p.m.

Leather goods

A sampling of items you might ferret out at the ACC show: Did someone say leather? Laminated, glacé kid, square-toed monk-strapped chukka boots. A plump, tribal, slashed calfskin, bucket-shaped shoulder-bag. An austere, tanned, embossed, saddle-stitched attaché case. A custom-made, masculine, hand-cut deerskin bomber jacket with woven arm-bands, appliquéd inset lightning-bolt silk-screened on the yoke, textured gusset pleats and stenciled flannel lining by Holly Merritt Leather in Santa Cruz.

A turquoise, python biker-wallet with red-cross inlay, mango sting-ray lining, lace piping and garnet snaps with a lifetime guarantee from Santa Monica's Jerry Van Amburg Leathers. "We're fetishy about our collection," says Van Amburg of his multihued, exotic animal skins. They also make



Patrick Meyer's pewter designs show his love for ancient civilizations.

Courtesy of the American Craft Council

"top" quality cuffs, King Neptune-style gauntlets and belts.

A cloisonné-decorated enamel friendship ring inlaid with pearl, citrines, lapis lazuli, chalcidony and calibre-cut labradorite with rivulets of pave set aquamarines. Are you loving it? A rustic veneered settee of mahogany, birch, and white ash, inlaid with poplar, with jute webbing and vertical spindles.

A set of delicate demitasse cups. A feathery, quilted, dip-dyed, hand-woven ikat-thread chemise. A slinky, sheer, screen-printed metal-mesh knapsack, with the look of lingerie in a fab-

ric tougher than nails.

"The trend emerging at art schools is that young artists are promiscuous, they're not tied to a particular media," says ACC's Branagan. "It's a fusion of materials, sometimes metal, sometimes glass. People don't think of themselves as one thing."

The ACC Show at Fort Mason runs Fri.-Sun., Aug. 8-10. Admission is \$8, or \$14 for two days. Enter on Marina Blvd. at Buchanan Street. They offer valet parking, but with 11,000 attendees expected, use our efficient public transit. Info: 1 (800) 836-3470 or www.craftcouncil.org. ▼

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Where Boys Are

◀ page 30

Dancing queen

An irony of the new book is how much Jeff has regressed emotionally from where we left him at the close of the first. Using the money left him in Javitz's will, Jeff does a full-submersion baptism back into a never-ending orgy of dance parties. Making clever use of the novel's structural trick, that parts of it are narrated in turn by Jeff, Lloyd and Henry, Mann can be quite eloquent on the pain

many of us experience surfing through contemporary gay culture. Lloyd pines over why he and Jeff are drifting apart.

"I do feel outside gay culture. The only reason I'm here in this cesspool tonight is because of Jeff. Where Jeff and so many others have dealt with their pain and grief by indulging in sex, drugs, and disco, I took the other route: I became celibate."

Lloyd's celibacy is a slippery slope that leads us to the novel's most ambitious and most problematic character: Eva, a 50-something spitfire of a woman who is a

fag-hag version of a Venus flytrap. Lloyd's increasingly delusional partnership with Eva in co-managing a P-Town B&B starts to sap our respect for him. It's soon evident that the needs of the plot require Lloyd to stay with Eva long after most of us would have pulled the plug on the friendship and the business.

Mann is at his best depicting Jeff's attempts to emerge from his second childhood with the help of a fascinating supporting cast of younger men (Henry; Shane, the Windex guy; and the mysterious Anthony), all of whom are looking at Jeff to be their Javitz. Anthony inspires the book's most daring riff on the links between sex, violence and the possibilities for redemption.

Mann and his characters struggle with the attempt to replace the gay, negative-Christian moral template with a secular, therapeutic model that's one-third Freud, one-third Buddha, and one-third pop culture. The sacred, the profane, and the downright trivial are constantly colliding, and as a result, Jeff and Lloyd come off for most of the 426-page ride as little more than self-righteous, self-absorbed prigs.

The novel is often best-served by its silliest moments, as when Jeff declares his love for his tribe's "maddening reverence for the superficial. Last summer, on Fire Island, I overheard a bunch of gay guys talking amongst themselves. 'Poor Kate Hepburn,' one of them said. 'She's the next to go.' It was completely endearing." ▼

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From the bottom to the middle: Five gay men try to 'make it' in the motion picture industry in Hollywood, CA.

Hollywood boys

AMC illuminates gay struggle for success

by Robert Julian

Prolific queer producers and filmmakers Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey are now throwing their hat into the ring of cable television's latest docu-reality show, *The AMC Project*. The second episode of the series is entitled *The AMC Project: Gay Hollywood* (August 11, 10 p.m., SF cable channel 49). Barbato/Bailey produce and Jeremy Simmons directs this exploration of the lives of five gay men as they try to "make it" in Hollywood. Mercifully, their collective journey contains no Eve Harrington moments, but as they struggle to make it from the bottom to the middle, there is no shortage of doubt and frustration.

At first glance, the five men selected for the show seem to be a questionable lot. They all have issues. Only one of the men, Lance Black — a young filmmaker/writer/producer — seems to have his feet on the ground and his head on his shoulders. The twentysomething Black is green, lacking connections and an extensive résumé, but he seems perfectly grounded. Drag performer Micah McCain, who seeks to transcend the lip-synch hell of queer show-bars, is delightful as his drag alter ego,

Bridgette of Madison County. McCain/Bridgette gets Judy Tenuta to mentor him and ends up as her opening act at The Comedy Store in Los Angeles. His funny stage persona may actually foreshadow success as a stand-up comic.

Ho, ho, ho

The other three men are particularly loathsome and annoying, each in his own special way. Pretty boy actor/model Robert Laughlin is upset that his career, after 10 years, is stuck in neutral. But, in truth, Laughlin isn't too pretty, too smart, or too talented. These facts seem to elude him. Writer Benjamin Morgan is unable to sell his spec scripts, possibly because his greatest concern seems to be hair and makeup. Morgan's grooming obsession results in a personal style that might best be categorized as "Santa Monica Boulevard painted 'ho.'" And Eurasian filmmaker Allan Brocka is totally caught up in his own fabulousness. He becomes demanding, difficult to work with, and he imposes unrealistic expectations on everyone. Brocka is truly his own worst enemy.

Does it help being gay in Hollywood? Is there a casting couch? What are these men really about, and what are they capable of accomplishing in "the industry?"

These are questions *Gay Hollywood* raises and, appropriately, does not answer. All five gay male Hollywood aspirants seem to be trying to find themselves in a place that doesn't really reward that process. They are buffeted by rejection, self-doubt, denial, delusions, and obsessive-compulsive behaviors that complicate their daily lives immeasurably. And although some of the subjects are not particularly compelling as human beings, their struggle still resonates. *Gay Hollywood* has some bumpy moments, but this second monthly episode of *The AMC Project* manages to be thought-provoking and entertaining. If nothing else, it makes you recall the cautionary lyrics of an old Burt Bacharach song that refers to Hollywood as a place where "all the stars that never were are parking cars and pumping gas." ▼

Ali Zaoua

◀ page 28

its failure to delve more deeply into the huge Arab homosexual subculture.

Romantic illusion

During *Casablanca's* 50th anniversary, co-screenwriter Julius Epstein confessed amazement at that most romantic movie's stunning success. "There wasn't a word of truth in the picture," Epstein said. "I don't know what would have happened if my brother and I hadn't come up with 'Round up the usual suspects' for the ending."

Watching *Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets*, it's astonishing how much the Epsteins did get right about the real *Casablanca*. Gone,

of course, is Rick's Cafe and the use of an airport in Burbank; but otherwise, the city still rests solidly on an underground economy of drugs and fleshpots. In a fit of depression, Omar sleeps with Ali's mother. Kouka's spirits are buoyed by his fantasy of a love affair with a beautiful young girl, whose wallet he pinches to bury his friend.

Director Ayouch reminds us that all boys dream. His film is an Arab slum version of *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys* — only when American boys dream, they're supported by an infrastructure of comic books, bossy nuns and soccer moms. *Ali Zaoua* is the dream sans the means. ▼

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Vexed and charmed by Erik Satie

Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet plays the complete works

by Tim Pfaff

Completeness freaks may be the last hope of the record industry. "Everything" is seldom all it's cracked up to be, but sometimes a complete works can bring perspective to a particular body of music. Decca recently followed up its fine *The Magic of Satie* CD, reviewed here many months ago, with *Satie: The Complete Piano Music*, a five-CD set that offers a complete, tirelessly enthralling insight into the turn-of-the-century French composer.

The collector will thrill to know that, despite the claims of earlier sets, this is the first that is truly complete, thanks to recent research. Also, every piece is authenticated Satie. Yet the set not only puts the well-known, mostly early pieces in context; it also offers a huge feast of largely undecipherable and never less than fascinating music from a composer-pianist whose piano music fully represents his music as a whole. Anyway, things just don't get any gayer than the mix of Erik Satie and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

One of the more refreshing musical presences on today's scene, Thibaudet has released a number of French piano "completes," including Ravel and De-

bussy, both worthy efforts somewhat overshadowed by his sense of the "greatness" of the composers. The playing is oddly inhibited for this exhibitionist, fun-loving musician. No such problem here. No one would attribute "greatness" to Satie, whose music is too diffuse, miniaturist, and whimsical to sit with the gods. That said, realizing everything in Satie requires a fuller range of pianistic expression than, say, a Beethoven sonata cycle, and Thibaudet leaves no doubt that there's nothing, technically, he cannot do, and with panache. Better, he accords all the music equal respect by playing the (presumably red) socks off it. Much of it emerges, if not divinely inspired, simply divine.

Yes, the music on the first CD, the *Gymnopédies* and *Gnossienens*, which makes up most of *Magic*, is the best, and finds Thibaudet at his finest. But the subsequent four CDs sustain interest and then some.

Cult music

It is illuminating, for example, on CD 2, to hear the music Satie wrote as a Rosicrucian, a phase that immediately preceded his establishing The Metropolitan Church of Art of Jesus, Leader, a cult whose only member and



(presumably after Jesus) leader he was. From its sanctuary, his shabby, one-room apartment on the fringes of Paris, he issued edicts against people who vexed him, principally music critics.

Slightly less interesting, yet compelling on its own terms, is the music he wrote as a student at the Schola Cantorum, where he repaired at 39 to learn how to compose music. (Earlier, he had responded to Debussy's criticism that his music was formally weak by writing pieces in the shape of a pear.) Even they contain notably odd works, like the three *Nouvelles pièces froides* ("New Cold Pieces") — often, Satie's titles are half the show).

CD 3 brings the composer's charming body of children's music and the final works, including a haunting set of terse Nocturnes and his final work, "Cinéma," an exuberant piece written for the film interlude in a René Clair ballet. Its prodigious quotes of other music mix with hypnotically repeated passages that presage today's minimalist film music. It's one of Thibaudet's unalloyed triumphs, brimming with character, mystery, and mischief.

But it is Satie's popular cabaret music, the incidental music he composed for numerous entertainments, and his other music of sheer whimsy that provide much of the richness of this set. Thibaudet's grasp of all the requi-

site idioms is arrestingly complete and natural, as mercurial as the music itself.

The whimsical *Oeuvres fantaisistes* on CD 4, composed between 1910 and World War I, are only "serious" with respect to the outrageous demands they make on the pianist, but they are so piquantly absurd in concept (stick around for the *Sonatine bureaucratique* at the end) they provide high, *outré* entertainment. Thibaudet even proves a master rag-pianist with the set's final item, the 1917 "Rag-Time Parade" from Satie's full-length ballet, *Parade*.

Which leaves *Vexations*. Satie's characteristically weird instructions are to play the theme and

two variations — which are famously as hard to read on the page as to play, and take complete concentration by the pianist — 840 times in a row, having "prepared oneself beforehand, in the deepest silence, by serious immobilities."

Thibaudet's 3 & 1/2-minute twice-through isn't, strictly speaking, vexing, but it is appropriately puzzling. Thanks to CD programming, true believers can now have the utterly complete Satie in the privacy of their homes (and preferred forms of immobility). I'm on repetition 327 and alternately deep into Satie's spelunking of ennui and enduring his vexation with critics. More later. ▼

David Daniels for all seasons

His new CD 'A Quiet Thing' is a summer release

by Jason Serinus

Though he has built his international career as an operatic countertenor on the rare technical assurance and emotional truth he brings to the rapid coloratura fireworks of Handel, Vivaldi and other baroque composers, David Daniels is equally prized for the honeyed, round tones that distinguish his introverted, legato singing. Now the beauty of his instrument and depth of his interpretations can be appreciated on his latest CD, *A Quiet Thing* (Virgin Classics), whose 19 songs consistently eschew showiness for intimacy. The openly gay Daniels, accompanied by handsome Australian guitarist Craig Ogden, assays a varied program ranging from contemporary American songs to classic European fare.

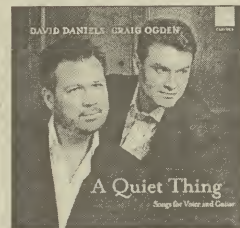
In a phone interview right after Daniels returned from the grueling Paris recording sessions of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*, he explained the genesis of *A Quiet Thing*.

"From the beginning of my career, I've tried to open up the doors of repertoire, broadening ideas as to what's possible for the countertenor voice. I had already recorded Handel recitals, oratorios, an opera, and a song recital with piano; I wanted to do something different.

"Originally, the disc was conceived to consist solely of American songs, but we changed the idea because the Virgin label is based in Paris," Daniels said. "The American songs I was passionate about were included, such as 'Shenandoah,' which I like especially well with guitar.

"I wanted it to be a very intimate disc, accessible not only to fans of mine, but also to people who don't necessarily come to opera and classical music. But it isn't just a collection of easy-listening classical songs; there's substance to it."

John Kander's "A Quiet Thing," which opens the recital, is



an ideal vehicle for David's honeyed tone. It also establishes the feeling of peace which deepens with the youthful freshness of Wilder's gorgeous "Blackberry Winter" and Leonard Bernstein's gentle "So Pretty."

To lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, the Bernstein consists of a dialogue between a child and his teacher. The child questions the reasons we war against people far away, being told "they must die for peace, you understand." "But they're so pretty, so pretty," responds the child. "I don't understand."

Daniels chose the song before the Iraq invasion scenario unfolded. "I didn't have a political subtext in mind. I thought it was appropriate for the boyish, white quality the countertenor voice can bring."

High points

Daniels next sings three Spanish songs from the 15th and 16th centuries. The high tessitura of Francisco de la Torre's "Pampano verde" benefits from the countertenor's soaring soulfulness; it also displays his perfect legato. Ogden's guitar punctuates vocal phrases with an ideally artful smoothness. Daniels' high note on Gabriel Mená's "A la cara" is one to remember.

After familiar works by Dowland and Purcell, Daniels sings three gorgeous Bellini songs. I could have done without the treatise of Bernstein's "A Simple Song," and wish the Bach/Gounod "Ave Maria" were sung a half-step higher, but the simple beauty of Foster's

next page ►

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BOOKS

The bad old days

SF's gay and lesbian history through 1965

by Tavo Amador

Despite its title, Nan Alamilla Boyd's *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (University of California Press, \$27.50) proves that life for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders in Baghdad-by-the-Bay was anything but free and easy during the period covered. The misleading title is just one of many problems with what, *au fond*, is a significant study of how we, as a community, got to where we are today.

Using oral histories and traditional scholarship, Boyd covers a broad range of topics: the vaudeville roots of female impersonation; lesbian male drag; the links in San Francisco among tourism, prostitution and homosexuality; the emergence of pioneer homophile groups like the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB); the importance of bar-based culture in gaining our civil rights; and the tensions between middle/upper-class gays and lesbians and their working-class counterparts.

All of this should make fascinating reading. Unfortunately, Boyd's narcolepsy-inducing prose; chapters that repeat, rather than summarize previously discussed material; sloppy terminology (she seems to equate transvestites with transgenders); broad and conflicting generalizations; and an anachronistic use of "queer" make this tough going.

For the determined student of our past, however, there are veins of rich information to be mined amidst the dreary verbiage. Among the most interesting are the different approaches towards achieving legal equality taken by homophile organizations and owners/patrons

of gay and lesbian bars.

In the early '50s, Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay, a former communist who believed that homosexuals had a unique culture that transcended class, was replaced by Hal Call, who stressed the similarities between gays and straights. Like Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, founders of the DOB, Call advocated an assimilationist approach to gaining acceptance. He and his organization discouraged flamboyance, especially regarding male drag, and "inappropriate" public behavior. Boyd is not sympathetic to this philosophy, but admits that the Mattachine Society was instrumental in getting Dr. Evelyn Hooker to undertake her ground-breaking study of gay and straight men, which ultimately resulted in the American Psychiatric Association's determination that homosexuality was not a mental disorder, but a natural orientation — a major breakthrough.

From a legal perspective, homophile organizations stressed a right to privacy as a basis for decriminalizing their lives. This approach was finally vindicated by the recent Supreme Court decision striking down Texas' anti-sodomy laws.

Assembly required

Bar owners and their patrons fought the constant police harassment, closure, raids, and arrests by arguing that the Constitution's freedom of assembly applied to gays and lesbians. In 1951's *Stoumen vs. Reilly*, the California Supreme Court agreed. This crucial decision forced the police to use "illegal" behavior — anything from same-sex dancing to kissing to holding hands to cross-dressing — as criteria for closing bars. Owners eventually prevailed against these tactics by fo-

cusing on the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

Boyd's simplistic classification of bars as being primarily working-class venues is challenged by some of her own sources, who point out that places like Gordon's and Dolan's catered to the "cufflink crowd." Similarly, her assertion that homophile groups were middle/upper-class is contradicted by the initial members of the DOB, founded by four lesbian couples, two of whom self-identified as working-class, and two of whom were professionals.

Boyd documents how, under Mayor George Christopher in the '50s, a campaign to "clean up" San Francisco, coupled with the horrors of the repressive McCarthy era (which linked homosexuality to communism), caused the city's gays and lesbians to suffer enormously. Eventually, under Mayor John F. Shelley (father of the present California Secretary of State) and with sympathetic stories in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, things improved. Organizations like the Society of Individual Rights (SIR), The Tavern Guild, and the Council on Religion and the Homosexual bridged the historic antagonism with the police. Soon, politicians like then-Assemblyman Willie L. Brown and then-Supervisorial candidate Diane Feinstein spoke at SIR meetings, seeking support from the burgeoning gay vote, then working to expand our civil rights.

Boyd gives José Sarria, the celebrated drag star at the Black Cat, a popular gay bar in North Beach, full recognition for his early work in developing our sense of community, and credits his running for Supervisor in '61 as an openly gay man with tapping our political strength. His oral history,

along with that of George Mendenhall, an early writer for the *Bay Area Reporter*; Lyon and Martin; Reba Hudson; and Joe Baron are fascinating and live up to the book immeasurably.

Let's hope a properly edited version of *Wide Open Town* will someday be available. ▼



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David Daniels

◀ previous page

"Beautiful Dreamer," "Shenandoah," and Martini's "Plaisir d'amour" provide a welcome conclusion to a gorgeous disc.

Daniels is quite forthcoming about what he considers the direct connection between his coming out and his ability to tap into the heart of the music he sings. "Being able to be comfortable with my

gayness allows me to be much more in touch with the emotions of songs. If someone is uptight, I think the audience sees that in their performing."

Daniels was most recently heard here singing selections from *Les Nuits d'Ete* with the SF Symphony, in a Cal Performances Berkeley recital, and in a shining Handel's *Julius Caesar* with SF Opera.

He rejoins the Symphony next June, when Andrew Davis con-

ducts him in Bach's cantata "Ich Habe Genug." Daniels returns to SFO in 2005 in David Alden's updated production of Handel's *Rodelinda*. He prefers modern to traditional stagings of baroque opera "because I feel I can get into the character more when it feels more real to me."

"I'm one of the fortunate classical singers who still has the opportunity to do recordings these days," he confessed. "I'm very lucky." ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Frat drag

On Sunday, August 10 at Aunt Charlie's Lounge, the Brothers of Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity invite you to see them as you have never seen them before—in drag!—as they compete in the "First Annual Miss Delta Lambda Phi Pageant." Local drag celebrities will give the brothers of this national progressive men's social fraternity a "Make-Over" to raise funds for the community-based San Francisco Zeta Chapter of the national social Fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men.

Well-known local drag celebrities China Silk, Gina la Davina, Diana McQuire and Empress 36 Chablis will help transform the Brothers into dazzling competitors, and will serve as judges and performers. Also helping with the transformations will be drag divas Reality, Vicki Marlane, Felicia, Donna Rae, Ivana Mann, Coco Butter and surprise guests.

Fraternity members will be selling raffle tickets for prizes donated by Aunt Charlie's, Circuit City, the Virgin MegaStore and others. Raffle tickets will sell for \$1 each or six for \$5. The cover charge and all tips given to the performers will be donated to the Zeta Chapter of Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity, 501 (C7). Men interested in the Chapter, and local DLP alumni, are strongly encouraged to attend. Zeta Chapter, originally founded in San Francisco in 1989, closed briefly in 1998, and was rechartered in summer 2000. \$2. 3 p.m. Aunt Charlie's Lounge, 133 Turk (at Taylor). Info: www.DLP.org.

'Solea Cabaret'

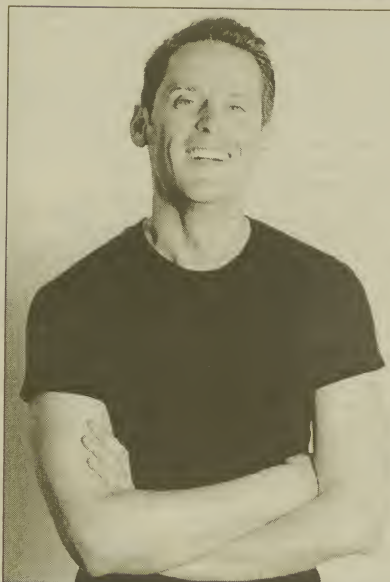
On Wednesday, August 13, Solea Restaurant & Lounge presents the "Solea Cabaret: A Diverse Night of Stand Up Comedy," featuring stand-up comics Ronn Vigh, Yayne Abeba, Nick Leonard, and Betsy Salkind. Host and producer Vigh, known for his unique wit, sarcasm, and ever-changing hair color, is a native East Coaster and former New Yorker who moved to the Bay Area in 2001 to pursue a career in comedy. Plus he's gay and it's the law.

Show headliner Betsy Salkind is an actress, comedian, writer and former drummer for The Phenobarbiddolls. She was a staff writer for the sitcom *Roseanne*, *Saturday Night Special* and has appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. She has written and performed three one-woman shows to date and may be best known for her squirrel impression.

Native San Franciscan Abeba took first place in the 2002 Russian River Comedy Competition and was a finalist in both the San Francisco and Seattle Comedy Competitions.

Leonard performs regularly as a comic and host around the Bay Area and Los Angeles. He produces QComedy at the LGBT Center, performs improv, and leads his own FOOTour, a comedian-led walking tour in SF.

"Solea Cabaret" begins at 9 p.m. and offers guests two options: Dinner & Show (\$35 per person), with seatings for dinner starting at 7 p.m., or the Cocktail Show (\$10 per person plus a one drink minimum) beginning at 9 p.m. Solea Restaurant & Lounge is located inside The Orchard Hotel, 665 Bush (at Powell). Tix/info: 415-837-1680. ▼



Scott Capurro hosts QComedy at The Center (see Monday) and unveils "Loaded" at The Marsh (see Thursday).

Fri

SHIFT>>> Physical Theater @ Dance Mission Theater

Opening night: "Giving Strength to this Fragile Tongue," three dances inspired by the life and work of Filipino radical labor organizer and writer Carlos Bulosan and his struggle to give voice to his experience as a migrant farm worker. Original scores by transgender composer Jess Rowland. Presented by SHIFT>>> Physical Theater, led by Artistic Director/choreographer/dancer Manuelito Biag. Featuring dancers Biag, Aimee Lam, Alisa Michelle, Lorevic Rivera, Manfred Schaehtle, and Rachel Whiting. Also premiering "When We Believe Again" with guest artists Company Mécanique; "Travelogue," and "Near Whisper." Founded in 1998, SHIFT>>> Physical theater strongly believes in an ensemble practice where members have an equal involvement in developing new projects. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Also on Aug. 9 (8pm) & 10 (7pm). 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix: 282-4765. Info: www.shiftdance.org

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Sat

'Brouhaha' @ El Rio

Trans, Intersex and Genderqueer folks are coming together and throwing a party to benefit Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and Pronoun Schmonoun. Co-sponsored by Killing Time Productions and United Genders of the Universe. Featuring local trans activist, rock goddess, movie star Shawna Virago on guitar and vocals; spoken-word artists Other Butch FTM spectrum; FTM hip-hop MC Katastrophe on the mic; Robo Sapient (moves music & smooth rhymes w/Wax Master C cutting it up on turntables; SF poetry slam champ and author (*Defending the Light*) Thea Hillman; Victor Tobar; Jaycub Perez; and DJ Sam. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOP). Doors open 4pm; show at 4:30pm. 3158 Mission St. (at Precita). Info: elriosf.com

Potluck Picnic w/Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, will participate with other GLBT groups in a potluck picnic to be held at Cull Canyon Regional Park, Castro Valley. Hot dogs, hamburgers and utensils furnished. Park admission: \$3.50 (\$2.50 students/seniors). Noon-5pm. Parking free. The park is off I-580 East. Take the Center Street Exit. Go north on Center to Heyer. Turn right to Cull Canyon Rd. Park entrance on left.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans @ Fort Baker

Join GLS for an ongoing habitat restoration project at Fort Baker, at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Meet 9:15am at the parking lot between the Parade Grounds and the Children's Discovery Museum. Work until luncheon. Work boots required; dress for dirty work,

bring layers, rain gear, water and (optional) lunch. Info: 510-531-9345; email csteane@earthlink.net. Website: sanfranciscobay.sierra-club.org/GLS

<<<Thump>>>

@ DNA Lounge

From Hom-Mega Productions Israel comes Psysex, offering <<<Thump>>>-goers multi-dimensional sound, undefined and deliciously rhythmic. Plus DJs Dutch, Drag-n'fly, Atom, Obu, B-Family, Felix the Dog, and Ms. Throwdown. Bodywork & Massage by Anahata Collective and Eve. String Artistry by Andres (www.phoenix-designs.net). Visuals by Dr. Spook & the Chaos consortium. Shrine created by Lady Suddenly. \$20 (\$15 b4 11pm). 21+ w/D. 375 11th St. Info: thumpradio.com

'Rumor' @ Club Rimshot, Hayward

Club Rimshot presents "Rumor," a night of hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, and alternative sounds every Saturday in Hayward. The party goes from 9pm-2am. \$5 b4 11pm for non-members; \$5 b4 midnight for members; \$8 afterwards. Indoor smoking patio. Plenty of free parking. Club Rimshot, 22554 Main Street, Hayward (just 15 minutes away from Downtown Oakland off I-580; 2 blocks from Hayward BART station). Info: www.clubrimshot.com

'Score!' @ Club 220

Score big at Score's monthly underwear party, presented by Don Spradlin every 2nd & 4th Sat of the month. Progressive house DJs Gryder & Hughes and Derek Juan get you in the mood. Hot boys in white briefs. New dance floor upstairs, dark basement downstairs (think Detour in Paris). \$10 adv/b4 2am; \$15 after. 1-8am. 18+ w/D. 220 Jones



What the hell's a "mash-up"? Find out at 'Bootie' as rebel DJs Adrian and The Mysterious D take over the Cherry Bar. See Wednesday.

St. (at Turk). \$3 parking at Jones & Turk. Info: www.ScoreBig.net

Catherine's House Benefit

@ Hole in the Wall

Benefit beer/soda bust to raise funds for Catherine's House HIV/AIDS Retreat Center in the Sierras. Fun, raffle, prizes (including full color poster by "The Hun"). \$7. 3-6pm. 289 Eighth St. (near Folsom). Info: Frank Mason, 567-3469. Hole in the Wall: 431-HOWL.

Sun

'Pistahan Parade & Festival' @ Market St. & Yerba Buena Gardens

Filipino American Arts Exhibition presents the "10th Annual Pistahan Parade and Festival," with floats, marching bands, dance companies, film/recording stars and other

celebs from the Philippines and the States, traditional and modern music groups, classic cars, and more. Parade starts at 12-noon on Spear St. and goes down Market St. to the gritty Sixth St. where a burgeoning Filipino community resides, and proceeds along Mission St. to Yerba Buena Gardens. Grand Marshals: Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisor Gavin Newsom. The outdoor fair features food, crafts, exhibits, etc. (On Free. 11am-5pm. Info: www.pistahan.com

PFLAG @ St. Francis Lutheran Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) welcomes Web developer, writer, activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith, who formed one of the first major Internet resources on America Online for the transgender community, called the Transgender Community Forum, which eventually evolved into Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo." Smith also served as web mistress for Loren



Pehnee Poblete and Christian Dominguez of Likha Pilipino Folk Ensemble perform at the 10th Annual Pistahan Parade and Festival. See Sunday.

Cameron's two websites, On-line Alchemy and Man Tool, as well as Gender.org. At the latter she hosts her web project, "Remembering Our Dead," which was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award in 1999. She writes her "Transmissions" column for the Bay Area Reporter and The Philadelphia Gay News. She serves on the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force and in her non-existent spare time restores her 1964 Rambler. Free. PFLAG Support Group meets 2-3pm. All welcome. Program 3-4pm. 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

SF Hiking Club

@ Marin Headlands

Join other outdoors lovers for a Marin Headlands From Tennessee Valley Hike. Scenic views to include hills, valleys, ocean, abandoned bunkers, trees, boats and bridges. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safe-way sign at Market & Dolores sts. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'The Weakest Drink' @ The Edge Bar

Mark Paladini presents "The Weakest Drink!" A benefit for Magnet, the men's health center in the Castro. This SF Bartenders Competition pits your local favorites in vying to prove their bartending prowess. Bartenders must prove their skill and knowledge in mixing cocktail concoctions. Expect frolics and fast-paced antics. Winner earns the title of "San Francisco Master Mixologist!" Live entertainment, audience quiz, door prizes, general raffle. Free (donations encouraged to support Magnet). 5-9pm. 4149 18th St. (at Collingwood). Info: 292-9808, ext. 2.

Jon Sugar's Birthday @ ADL Bookstore

The venerable Jon Sugar, writer/comedian, founder/figurehead of GAWK (Gay Artists Writers Collective), and local icon celebrates his birthday with special friends. Live performances by Lynn Breedlove (Tribe 8), Kirk Read, Joey Cain, Alvin Orloff, and of course Sugar himself. Free. 2pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.

'Miss Delta Lambda Phi Pageant' @ Aunt Charlie's Lounge

The gay brothers of Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity invite you to see them as you never have before — in drag! See "Calendare" for details.

Mon

QComedy

@ The Center

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," this week hosted by comedy superstar Scott Capurro, who has performed at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in Scotland, worked on feature films, and been banned from Australian TV. His novel *Fowl Play* was published in England. He's been on the Radio Alice morning show. What more do you want? Also appearing: Maura Kennedy (from LA), Ray Ferrer, Zoe Dunning, Bob "The Crippled Comic" Douglas, Simone Alexander, Jake Epstein, and of course Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; Qcomedy.com

The Coming Out Group @ LYRIC

Want to tell your family about who you really have a crush on? Having problems



Manuelito Biag dances in SHIFT>>>Physical Theater's "Giving Strength To This Fragile Tongue" at Dance Mission Theater. See Friday.

with homophobic friends? Or are you just wondering what being LGBTQ is like for other youth? Then join LYRIC's newest group aimed at providing a space for young people to talk about the life-long process of coming out. Free. Every Monday, 6-8pm. 2nd Floor, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, 127 Collingwood St. Info: Jaedon at 415-703-6150, ext. 13; email jaedon@lyric.org. Website: www.lyric.org

Tue

2003 Oakland Int'l Black GLBT Film Fest

@ Parkway Theatre, Oakland

Club Rimshot and the Parkway Theatre present the "1st Annual Oakland International Black Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual & Transgender Film Festival." Part of Bay Area Black In The Life, a week-long celebration of African & African-American gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgender life and culture. Film festival founder Joe Hawkins calls this two-day event "a unique opportunity to celebrate and recognize the lives of same-gender loving people of African descent." Opening night films include *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, a documentary combining the story of a unique American life with a chronicle of civil rights struggles in America in the late 20th century; and *The Edge Of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde*, about the history-making conference held in 1992, made up of people of color and poor and working class peoples, that celebrated the work of Lorde. Doors open 6pm. Screenings at 6:15 & 9:30pm. Parkway Theatre, 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland. Hotline: (510) 814-2400.

'Trannyshack' @ The Stud

Putanesca hosts "Girl Group Night." \$6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). DJ Pinky Ring spins. 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Wed

'Bootie' @ Cherry Bar

Rebel DJs Adrian and The Mysterious D ('Smashed', 'Cheap Trick', Blue Period) launch their new club, "Bootie," a monthly bootleg party to be held the second Wednesday of every month. They declare it's "the first all-bootleg/mash-up club in the U.S." (There are a few others in the U.K. and Berlin, but that's it.) So what's a bootleg/mash-up? It's bastard pop! Imagine Michael Jackson singing with Nirvana or Madonna fronting the Sex Pistols." Performances on the hour, every hour by Princess Kennedy, Suppositori Spelling, and Jordan L'Moore. Comfy chill lounge hosted by Lucy Borden. \$5 cover. Cherry Bar & Lounge (the old Covered Wagon Saloon), 917 Folsom St. (at 5th). Info: www.blue-period.com/bootie

'Changeling' @ LYRIC

"Changeling," a weekly discussion group for transgender, transsexual, cross dressing, gender bending, drag queen/king, multi gender or gender variant youth, and anyone else living outside of the binary gender system. Come meet others who feel the same as you, get some support from your friends and eat some snacks! A safe and respectful space for youth of all colors and genders. Open to folks 25 and under only. Every Wednesday night, 7-9pm. 127 Collingwood St., 2nd Floor. Info: Sierra at 415-703-6150, ext. 13; email sierra@lyric.org.

Thu

'Radar Reading Series' @ Main Library

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center presents the "Radar Reading Series," an evening of poetry and conversation with Bay Area authors Kevin Killian, Tara Jepsen, Jeremy Lin and Bee Laverdard. Free. 6-8pm. Main Li-

brary, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove). Info: sfpl4.sfpl.org/news/eventsloc.htm

Pansy Division @ Cafe Du Nord

Punk queer rockers Pansy Division, founded in SF in 1991 and now enjoying world-wide fame, release their new album *Total Entertainment!* on the Alternative Tentacles label. The band is comprised of Chris Freeman (bass, vocals), Jon Ginoli (rhythm guitar, vocals), Patrick Goodwin (lead guitar, vocals), and Luis (drums). Also playing: Harold Ray Live in Concert and San Andreas. \$7. 18+w/D. 2170 Market St.

Scott Capurro's 'Loaded' @ The Marsh

World premiere: What do killers and car lots have in common? Is someone who murders his parents more misguided than a worker bee? In Scott Capurro's new show "Loaded," directed by Danny Scheie, the comedian reveals his obsessions with crime and shiny cars. A killer celebrity (Erik Menendez, who popped his parents) and an accountant romp through a Ford dealership. What gives? Why do people fall in love with convicted killers? \$15. Also Aug. 15 & 16. 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd). Tix/info: 826-5750.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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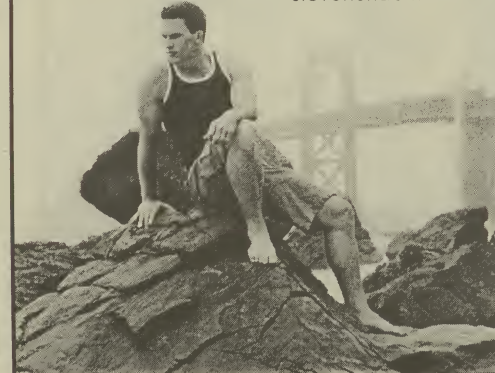
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Sacramento takes all

Williams & Crespo win No. Cal. Sir/boy

by Mister Marcus

I received a vehement "job well done" accolade from everyone in attendance — a big plus for Roger Gregg and David McCammon, the first-time producers of the 2003 Northern California Leather Sir/boy contest up at the Russian River last weekend, August 1-3. It was one of the best first-time productions I have attended.

As it turned out, Brian Williams was chosen the 2003 Leather Sir, and Arturo Crespo was chosen as the 2003 Leather boy, and both from Sacramento. They will advance to compete at the International Sir/boy competition in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

The Meet & Greet at the Rainbow Cattle Company on Friday night was well attended, with Lenny Broberg and Tony Koester superbly emceeing all the weekend events. They offered a healthy dose of "Can you top this?" responses to each other. All in good fun! Sometimes this "tack" can be irritating to those who are not "in" on the personalities involved, but Tony and Lenny managed to get a lot of laughs out of their verbal sparring.

The contestants Sir Tom Braddock and boy Jose Guevara of San Francisco, Sir Philip Linder and boy Roger Hunt of Guerneville, and Sir Brian Williams and boy Arturo Crespo of Sacramento faced judges Eric Partridge, David Shorey, Richie Chamberoy, "Mama" Reinhardt, Ray Tilton and Mike Zuhl. It was a pleasure judging with this group. Jake Schwartz did an admirable job as the Tally Master, and all the volunteers went out of their way to make it happen smoothly.

The basket auction and other shenanigans that were hilarious and bountiful for the winners' travel fund. A dunk tank, posterior painting, and laughs galore all afternoon made it a delightful interlude and hopefully profitable for the travel fund.



Brian Williams (standing) is Northern California Leather Sir 2003, and Arturo Crespo is No. Calif. Leather boy 2003. They were chosen last Saturday, August 2 in Guerneville.

Saturday evening saw an enthusiastic crowd arrive at the Odd Fellows Hall for the big show. The Guerneville Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were everywhere all weekend volunteering their service and David Meulmans opened the show with magnificent rendering of the National Anthem, and later with a tear jerking version of "America the Beautiful". The color guard was impressive with the SF Boys of Leather and others in the parade. And the action began in earnest. The judging categories played out, including leather image, speeches, and fantasies that had the crowd stomping and begging for more. A "Special Boy" Award was given to Chris Smith and the outgoing David Shorey was installed as the

newest member of the SF Boys of Leather.

The first runner-up Sir was Tom Braddock of San Francisco and the first runner-up boy was Roger Hunt of Guerneville. It was a scintillating weekend including the judges' dinner at the home of Rod Wood and the Victory Brunch at T.Jay Cain's home was a plethora of food that would have fed an entire regiment. Roger and David, the producers of the weekend, are due high accolades for their excellent production and already, people are making plans for the 2004 edition.

Meanwhile, the Southwest Regional contest was taking place in Phoenix, but at my deadline, no details were sent so you'll have to wait for a future report.

In St. Petersburg, Florida, one of the feeder contests to the Florida contest was taking place in
next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 8-10

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2004 in San Francisco on Saturday night.

Meet & Greet for Leather/Levi Weekend at the Powerhouse at 2100 on Saturday night.

In Los Angeles, Regiment of the Black & Tans present "Scratch & Sniff Cockring Contest" at the Faultline on Saturday night at 2100.

In Chicago Saturday and Sunday, North Halsted Market Days, a sizzling street fair.

Mr. and Ms. Baltimore Eagle competition at that bar.

In Dallas, Texas the 3rd Annual Ms. World Leather contest.

Saturday, August 9

Got a tough tush? How tough? Enter the Iron Ass Contest & beer/soda bust at Daddy's today from 1500-1800. It's about "giving and taking". How well can you give it? How well can you take it? Red butts prevail all weekend. Check it out. Sounds like lots of fun!

Wednesday, August 13th

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison St. You know the rules, regulations and depth of the water.

Call 777-HEAD.

Weekend, August 16-17

Sacramento Valley Leathermen invite all to attend the California State Fair and brunch the next day.

Saturday, August 16

Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2004 contest at that world-famous bar at 2100. Win the title, a chance to compete at Mr. SF Leather in September, cash and a custom title vest with entertainment by Donna Sachet.

Weekend, August 23-25

Northwest Leather Sir/boy competition in Seattle.

Great Lakes Leather Alliance in Indianapolis with five title contests including Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy competition. Yes, the Leather Sir/boy competition is indeed steaming ahead full force.

Sunday, August 31

21st annual SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest at the Eagle Tavern, 1500-1800. Who will succeed Will Brunner? Don't miss the biggest event in town on Labor Day weekend.

Back in the saddle

by Sweet Lips

Sorry about missing the last few issues, but I spent two weeks in Kaiser Hospital, then three weeks at home, bedridden. But now I am glad to be well, sort of, and back at work at the very popular Club Rendez-Vous on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., so come on down and join me in having some fun.

Speaking of Club Rendez-Vous, we have a very popular Karaoke night every Wednesday, hosted by Joshua Jones. Some very talented singers turn up! And on Thursdays at 9 p.m., the super-sexy Men of Exotica perform at "Male Strip Night." Don't miss their steamy show! And Cockatelia's drag assault "TIL Friday" happens from 10:30 p.m.-Midnight every Friday, and the antics are always a blast!

I want to use the occasion of my return to the limelight to say hello to my good friend Martin Ryder of New York City. Hi, Mar-

tin!

The popular Steve Suss in Portland will be here for two days late this month, staying with me, then he and his brother Tony sail away from San Francisco, heading for the Fiji Islands. What a great trip that will be!

Jim Manger is back from his Eastern vacation, and doing what he does so well at the popular Cinch Saloon.

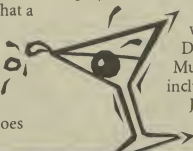
The Lush Lounge folks have turned the old Reflections bar on Polk Street into a classy new establishment called the Vertigo Bar. They have really been working hard at making it a fabulous place, and it shows. The new space opened this past weekend, complete with a small dance floor and a smoking patio. DJ Johnny Kat spun tunes last Friday and Saturday night, as a wide assortment of different people stopped by to check the new bar out.

The handsome Michael Valdez is now working at the new Twin Peaks on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. till Noon, and he's already attracting a great crowd.

Among his fans in the crowd last week were the ever-popular Dick Deemer and Hal Mulohill, amongst others including Bert Dreyer and Jim Dorn. Good show, Michael!

Rumor has it that Out of the Closet, the used clothing store that benefits charities, will be opening a store in the Castro. That will make four stores in the Bay Area.

For all you out-of-towners who haven't spent much time in the city, or those who spend all their gay time and money in the Castro, remember that Polk Street is an interesting place to visit, very friendly, with lots of bars and shops and colorful people, so come on down and join us, and let us show you a good time! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

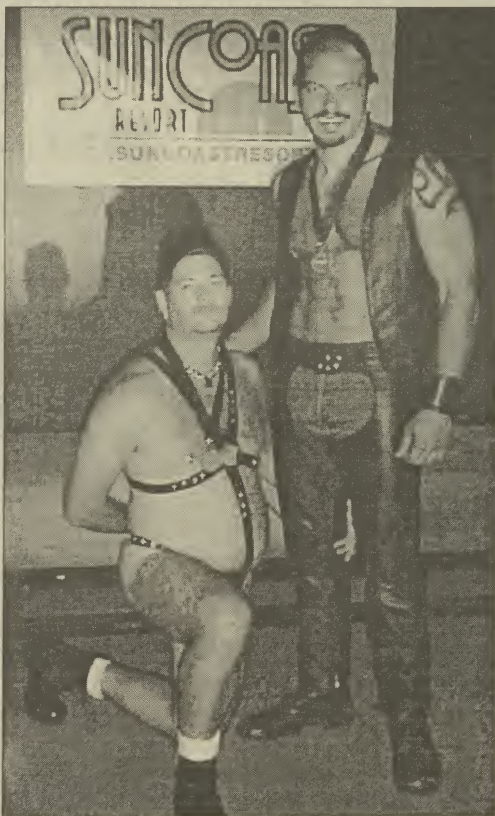
◀ previous page

da Regional Leather Sir/boy competition took place at the Sun Coast resort. Jose Quiles of Orlando is the Central Florida Sir and "boy Mike" Schwartz is the Central Florida Leather boy. The advance to compete for the Florida Regional contest in Jacksonville the weekend of August 29-31.

Other dates, other places.

This coming weekend, Karen McGee steps aside for her successor in Dallas, Texas at the 3rd Annual Ms. World Leather competition. In a big breakthrough and another sign of gay acceptance, Pitchfork Productions begins filming a new "reality" TV series called "Eye On The Prize" and the second episode of the show will feature the Ms. World Leather organization.

The episode will take viewers behind the scenes of the competition and will follow three women contestants as they go for possible victory. It will try to explain what make these passionate women tick, how they got involved and what they think it takes to be a winner. The show will also recount the history of the title, inside story on contestants and their platforms, past winners, words from the event organizers, a look at the prizes, sash, trophy and the life-changing effects of winning. Eye On The Prize will probably air on VH1 channel. Stay tuned for dates it will be televised. Bravo and congratulations to the Ms. World organization! ▼



Central Florida Leather Sir Jose Quiles and Central Florida Leather boy Mike Schwartz were chosen last Saturday, August 2 at the SunCoast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. Next stop: Florida Region Leather Sir/boy competition the weekend of August 29-31

Out There

◀ page 26

models, to keep their weight down!"

"Let's try to be nicer about the little men," we recommended. (See, we can talk in dialogue, too!) "There are not all that many professions where it's really a big advantage to be short." We meant height-impaired, of course, and only in a nice way.

So, in the never-ending crusade to pretty up the planet, Bravo parent company NBC announced

this week that the promo homos of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* will be doing a total makeover on *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno. But unless they can transform him into Jack Paar, we won't tune in.

Meanwhile: Why didn't SFPD puppet Officer O'Smarty plunk down the 3,500 clams and get his name on the recall ballot with the rest of the circus? After all, O'Smarty has already been on a San Francisco ballot, and he won! That's more than any of the Losers lining up to steal the governorship can say. [Stage direction: Make 'L' with thumb and forefin-

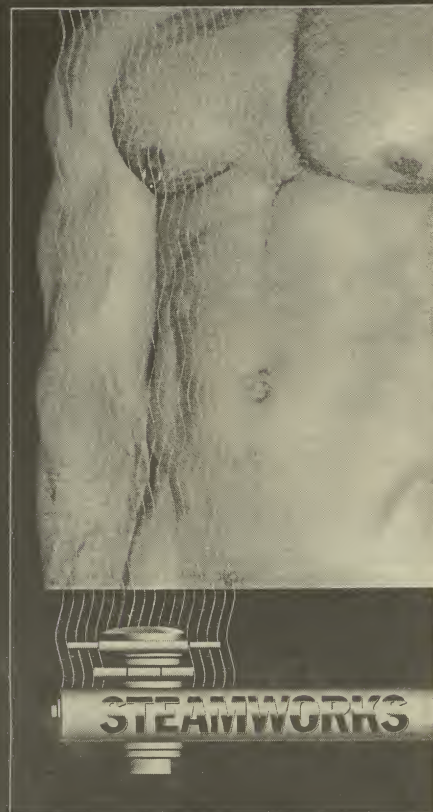
ger. Slap 'L' against forehead. Say, "Losers!"]

Show blots

When a theatre producer purposefully *disinvinies* critics to review a show, that's not nice, that's nasty. It's also usually a bad sign to potential audiences. Since our arts and entertainment section treats reviews as a resource guide for our readers, we begin to feel, well, short-changed. Maybe we'll follow that "No Reviewers" policy when the playwright's next vehicle rolls through town. Wouldn't that be naughty! ▼

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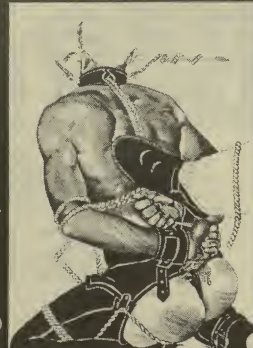
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play 'til 1 or 2am

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PARTING GLANCES

"Belden Lane" 07/03
You, handsome Asian man, were with friends. We smiled several times as I walked through Belden Lane. Since you were with friends, I didn't come over. Call me. ☎ 72672

"Caught In Castro"
On July 12th before 8pm, I felt your glance and was then caught in it as we crossed 16th and Noe on Market (North side). You were heading East and I West. You have short, dark blond hair; fair, smooth & rosy complexion; 5'10"-11 medium build, wearing green I think and maybe shorts to knees. I was tanned, dark balding hair, goatee, wearing dark green shirt and pants, maybe wearing metal-rimmed glasses. I was crossing street with two female friends (you may have seen)... We passed each other on each other's left. Would really like the opportunity to meet. I wanted to turn and approach you, but it felt too rushed and awkward there. Please respond if you think it may be you. ☎ 72687

Circle J - Saturday July 12th!
Had a great time meeting and talking. I couldn't stay for Sunday and couldn't get you in my luggage but I can come back. Call me. Big guy from LV. ☎ 72688

37 Bus Stop Castro Market 7/20
You dressed in purple tank top & olive shorts. We talked about Great July weather. You went to University of Oregon. My bus came. Call me! ☎ 72689

"Ken Berger Of Montreal"
Barhopping in Seattle call John. ☎ 72690

Russian River Area ISO
Wayne we used to be roommates and you worked at Sweets Restaurant. Also Richard Lanzendorfer and other old friends. I'm in Hawaii. Please contact me, Craig Bailey. Leave phone and address. ☎ 72699

Judah Muni 7/25
Thanks for the wave when you got off at Sunset. You: KQED jacket. Me: Denim shirts. Let's meet and talk. ☎ 72700

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Goodlooking GWM 36
GWM CMT looking for Latino or Asian for friendship or LTR. I am HIV- disease free. I enjoy movies, the beach, dancing, holding hands. Let's talk. ☎ 72673

~Seeking Relationship~
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. ☎ 72678

Oral Expert For Hung Guys!
I'm hung and I'm seeking to service guys who hung "9" or "10" inches, or more. We can party and watch video's. ☎ 72691

Hung Hispanic Guys Wanted!
If you're Hispanic and hung "8", "9", or "10" inches or more, call me to get serviced, party, watch video's, etc. ☎ 72692

Butt Son Seeks SR LTHR Daddy
Blond, in-shape, 45-y/o HIV-(ss) son/bot will service hung, 60+ lthr top/dad. Son into butt play, boot worship, w/s, s&m, b/d... whatever turns you on! ☎ 72693



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Bottom with nice round medium ass. Masculine muscular body. Seeking 4 GWM who likes affection as sell great sex - around 6" to 7" inch. Smooth slim muscular body. 5'6" to 5'11". ☎ 72674

"Redhead"
SWM, 5'10", 170#, ex-navy. Mobile home owner. Enjoys drumming, tennis & chess. Seek relationship with female. ☎ 72677

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GAM, 37, 5'7" 155lbs looking for sensitive, straight/acting male. You: honest caring, weight and height proportionate in your 40's. Prefer someone that is uncomplicated with sense of humor. ☎ 72701

Bald, But Cute GWM 42
5'10", 165 buzzcut clin shwn, glasses, HIV- sense of humor & sweet prof. Sks strong, masculine GM, like hanging out at home, food, art, movies, entertainment, beaches, drives, & sex! Very affectionate too! ☎ 72702

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Pool Boy Wanted East Bay
Couple 46 GLM 225, 40 GWM 165, both HIV-, goodlooking, fun, fun, safe, seek Hot pool boy 21-35, for Hot time, suit optional, pool & hot tub, blond+. ☎ 72675

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54yo, HIV+ GWM 5'10", 170lbs, brown hair/goatee, firm legs tight butt. You: 40+ with facial hair into long sessions of fantastic cocksucking and hot fucking. ☎ 72676

•Adventure•
GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. ☎ 72679

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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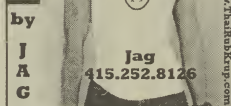
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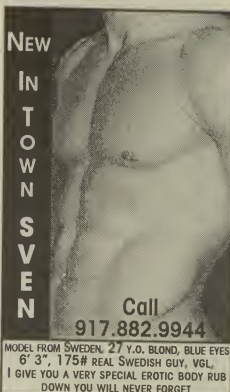
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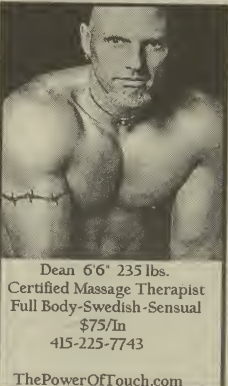


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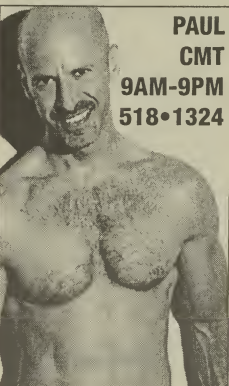
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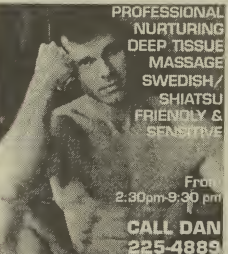
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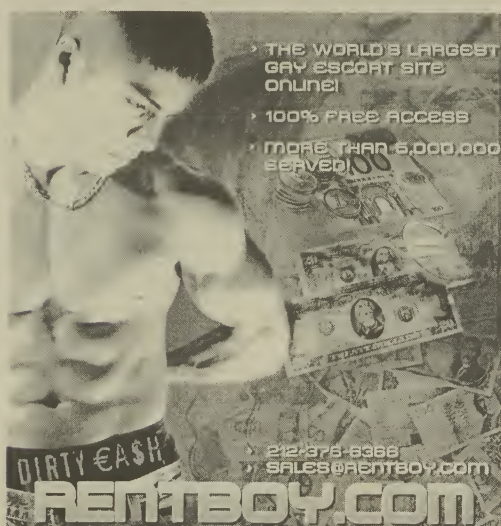
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CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP

6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut
Page 650-523-9133, and massage

E32

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25, 150, sandy bl, bl, smooth, and
very fair skinned. Out calls
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5'11", 180lbs. Muscular (x-fine)!!
In/out 24/7. Pg. 804-2152

E32

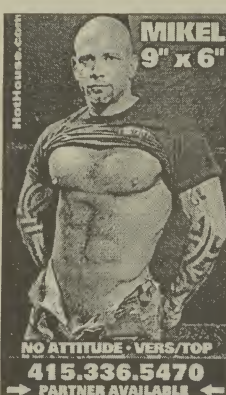
Frat boy Hunk

Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs

Deep throat and young jock ass

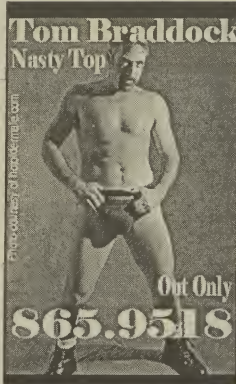
5'9", 155#, 30"W, 8" 640-4045

E32



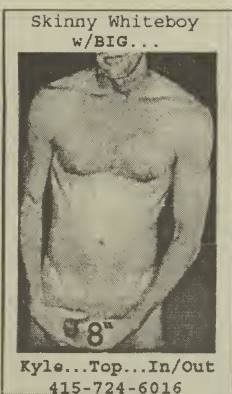
MIKEL
9" x 6"

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w/BIG...

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E34

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Submit & surrender

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Bob 707-865-2093

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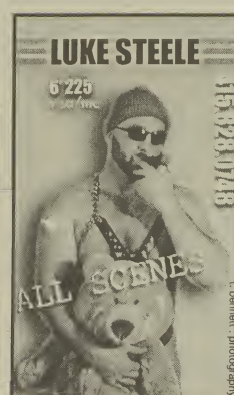
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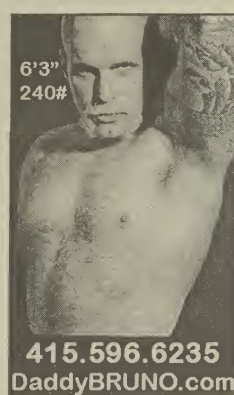
9"uncut, firm butt, kink, 6'1",
150lbs. Page 415-414-1016

E32

HUNG FALCON MODEL

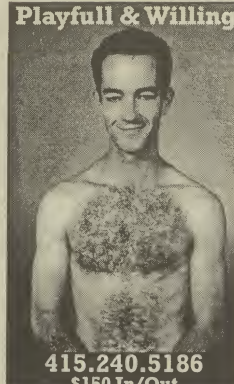
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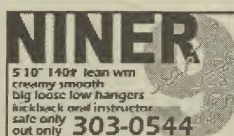
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MODELS/ESCORTS

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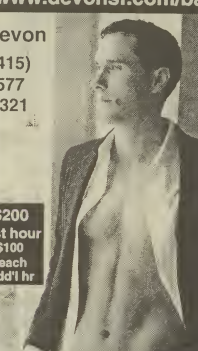
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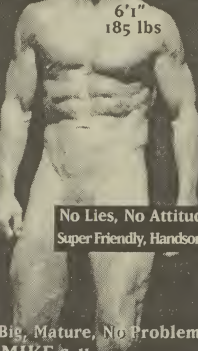


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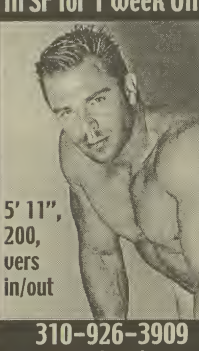
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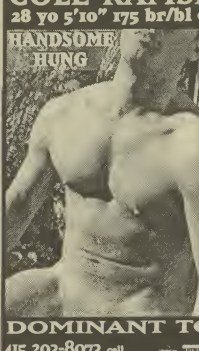


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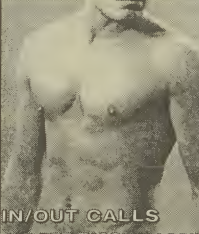
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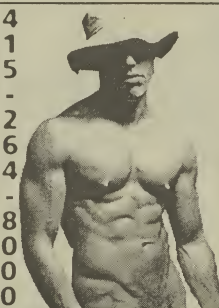
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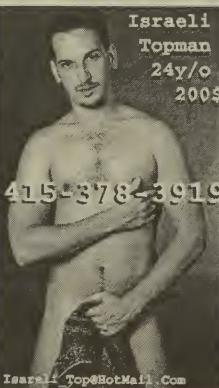
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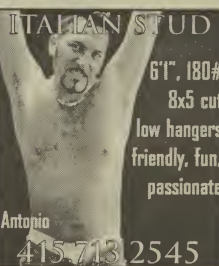
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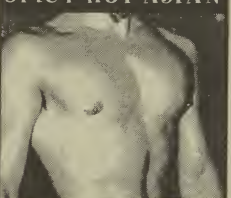
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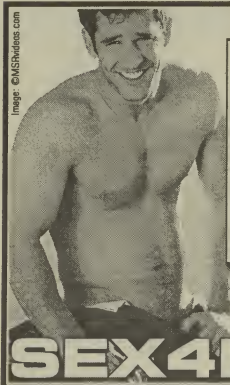
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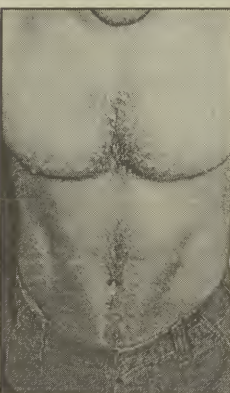
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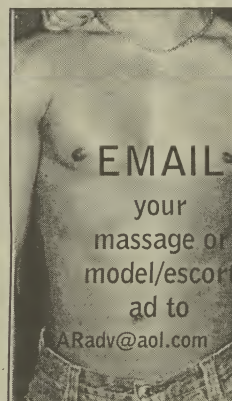
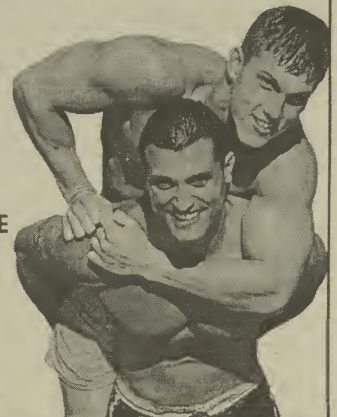
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